

A Preliminary Report on the
2006 Excavations into the Quarters Community

of the
Magnolia Plantation,
Cane River Creole
National Historical Park,
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

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Prepared for:

The National Park Service:
Cane River Creole National Historical Park,
Natchitoches, Louisiana
and
The Southeast Archaeological Center
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Rolonda Teal, Dr. Nancy Morgan, Dr. David Morgan, and Dr. Pete Gregory each provided information, advice, and comments important to the fieldwork and our interpretation of the results. I look forward to their constructive comments on this report and our future investigations into the Magnolia Quarters.

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Finally, I would like to thank my wife Kris for her support, understanding, encouragement, companionship, and uncanny ability to convert my writing into acceptable English.

I. Introduction:

As stated within the original proposal to the National Park Service, the over arching goal of this historical archaeological research into the slave and tenant quarters of the Magnolia Plantation is to continue a major comparative research project into the origins and development of African American culture in a rural plantation setting. This comparative project has defined two major goals. The first goal relates to the effect of the labor system imposed by the plantation owner (e.g., gang verses task) on the beliefs and behaviors of the enslaved population of the plantation. Current historical and archaeological thought supports the view that the labor system imposed had a major impact on the cultural practices of the enslaved and, later, tenant populations. In sum, the prevailing view holds that if a task system was employed, then a high level of cultural autonomy with the integration of African traditions should be observed in the material remains of the community of enslaved and freed people. However, if the gang system was employed, then a more rapid acculturation of the African American population should be observed within the material remains of the community. The second general goal relates to an attempt to investigate the internal processes involved in the construction of African American culture in both rural and urban settings in the South. This goal seeks to provide data related to the origin, nature, and timing of adaptation of elements integrated into African American cultural evolution. This goal represents an attempt to reconstruct the patterns of belief and behavior that operated within the African American communities. The investigation being conducted at the Magnolia Plantation will provide the fourth plantation Quarters excavated that employs the comparative methodology developed over the course of the larger study. The Magnolia Plantation should provide data from a second gang-based plantation studied (the other being the Levi Jordan Plantation).

Within this context, two broad goals have been defined for our investigation of the Magnolia Quarters (Brown 2005a):

- 1.) The investigation is intended to provide information not currently available on the lives of the inhabitants of the Magnolia Quarters beginning at least as early as the 1840s, when the brick cabins were constructed, and continuing through the first half of the 20th Century. Such information will aid in the interpretation of Magnolia Plantation within the context of ante- and post-bellum plantation to visitors to the National Park.
- 2.) The larger comparative research project has provided evidence concerning a wide variety of patterns of behavior and belief that existed within slave and tenant communities across the South. This derived data, and its interpretation, are being employed to define a number of the adaptive responses made by members of these African American communities to the conditions of both enslavement and freedom. Thus, our previous investigations into the Quarters communities on Levi Jordan (Brazoria County, Texas), Frogmore Manor (Beaufort County, South Carolina), and Richmond Hill (Bryan County, Georgia) Plantations have identified archaeological contexts that permit the interpretation of community-based religious, social, and economic behavioral patterns that were practiced across the three sites, despite the more than 1000 miles that separate them. The proposed investigation of the Magnolia Quarters will permit the testing of these patterns within the context of another large, gang-based plantation.

Following Keel's recommendations to the National Park Service and his research questions for the Magnolia Quarters (Keel 1999:81), it was proposed that we undertake an investigation of the "everyday domestic life of the slaves and tenants." In order to

accomplish this within the objectives of the larger comparative project, it was proposed that two major archaeological field operations be conducted during the course of the investigation (Brown 2005a).

- 1.) Extensive excavations into at least three of the Magnolia Plantation Quarters double-pen cabins will be undertaken in order to provide comparable archaeological data for the larger study designed to interpret the origin and evolution of African American culture. These cabins were to include NPS cabin #1 and two cabin "ruins" (Figure #1). While cabin #1 had been the focus of archaeological investigation conducted by the NPS (Keel 1999; Miller 2004), to date, neither of the areas once occupied by cabins have been tested, other than during the NPS auger-testing program (Keel, et. al. 1999; Miller 2004). It was felt that the investigation of the two ruined cabins should provide potentially important information to NPS for its proposed interpretation of the Quarters. As it is currently believed that the enslaved residents of the Quarters occupied an individual room of a cabin while tenant families occupied both rooms (Hahn and Wells 1991; Keel, et. al. 1999; Miller 2004), these excavations should also provide data related to the occupation of the cabin. Carefully controlled comparative investigation conducted within the Magnolia Quarters should provide data related to a number of questions regarding the adaptation of Africans and African Americans to the conditions of enslavement and freedom, including: craft specialization, ritual sanctification of space, and variability in life styles.
- 2.) Extensive excavations will be conducted into the yard space associated with cabin #1 and the two cabin ruins selected for investigation. Excavations across yard space at the Levi Jordan, Frogmore Manor, and Richmond Hill Plantations has demonstrated that the spatial organization of Quarters sites has the potential to yield valuable information related to craft specialization; the organization of household activities; use of the landscape of the community; and curing, health, and conjure practices.

Our archaeological investigation of the Magnolia Plantation Quarters began in 2005 with an abbreviated field season that started on June 23 and lasted through early August 2005 (Brown 2005a). As a result of the late start to the field season and the small size of the crew, only two of the originally proposed operations were attempted: the re-establishment of the NPS grid system, and limited "shovel testing" of the yard space associated with cabin #1 and ruin "B" (Figure #1). The testing operation resulted in a limited set of data demonstrating that this portion of the Quarters site continued, "to retain a high level of integrity" (Brown 2005a:19). This included the identification of a number of sub-surface features as well as differences in the horizontal distribution of artifacts suggestive of past human behavior (e.g., the cleaning of portions of the yard, the deposition of refuse near and along fence lines, as well as 20th Century agricultural activities that impacted a small section of the southern portion of the Quarters area).

II. The 2006 Field Season:

As a result of this delay in beginning field operations, the original proposal approved by the NPS was altered. The focus of the 2006 field investigations centered on cabin #1, rather than the excavation of ruin "A" as called for in the original proposal. This change was agreed to by Dr. Keel, Southeast Regional Archaeologist for NPS; Laura Gates, Superintendent of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, and the P.I. After this agreement, it was decided that the 2006 investigations would include three major operations: 1.) intensive excavation below cabin #1; 2.) extensive testing of the "yard space" surrounding cabin #1; and 3.) collection of historical information related to the members of the Magnolia

Quarters community. The first two operations were conducted from May 22 through July 1, 2006. The collection of historical information has been a continuing operation throughout the

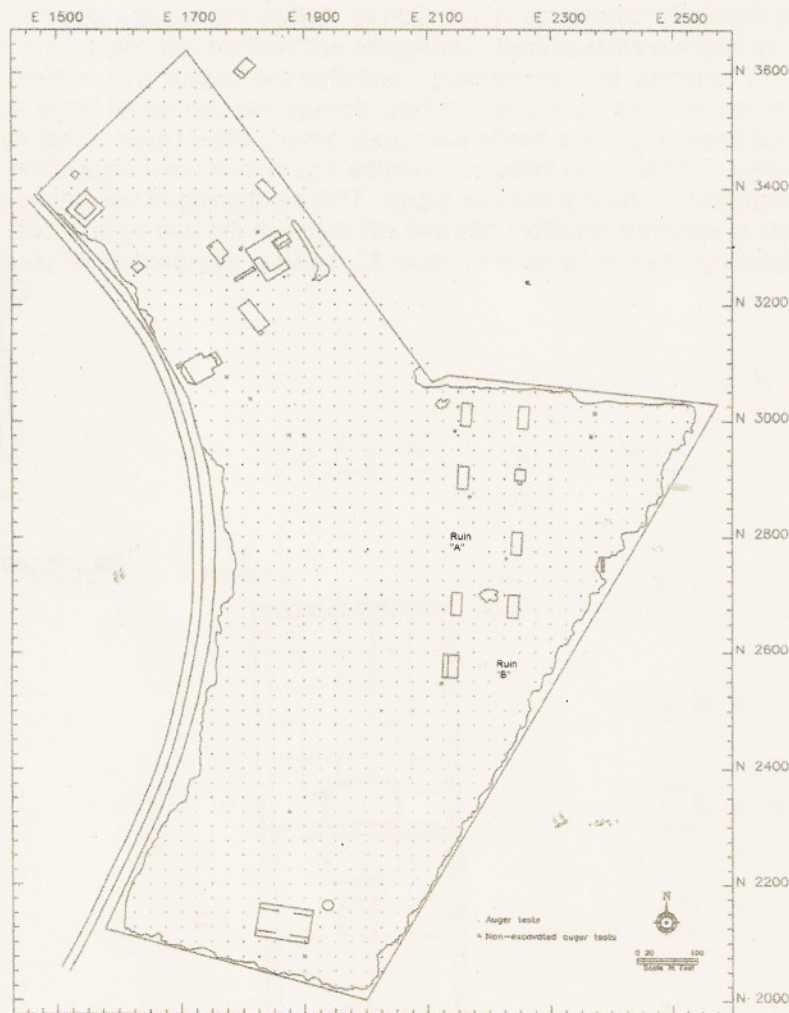


Figure #1: A map of the Cane River Creole Heritage Park's Magnolia Plantation property with Keel's grid system. Each dot represents one of the auger test locations (Adapted from Keel 1999:36). The remaining brick cabins can be seen in two parallel columns with cabin #1 being the southern cabin in the left hand row, ruin A is the missing third cabin in the left column, while ruin B was the southern cabin in the column on the right. The gin barn is the rectangular structure on the south end of the property.

year. However, two of the authors (Heacock and Ridge) traveled to North Carolina from August 13th through the 19th to intensively survey and copy a number of the records related to the plantation housed as part of the Prudhomme Family Papers in the Manuscript Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The preliminary results obtained from these three operations forms the subject matter for this report.

II.A. The General Excavation Methodology Employed:

As stated within the original proposal to NPS, two types of units were excavated during the course of the 2006 fieldwork: the standard excavation unit and the "subunit test." The standard excavation unit measured three feet by three feet initially. For units placed outside of cabin #1, each of these units was divided into nine one foot by one foot subunits

after the first level had been excavated. Given the stratigraphy that was encountered under the floor space of the cabin, each excavation unit was divided into subunits prior to beginning its excavation. The use of these subunits provides for provenience control across the site to a minimum of one square foot. Thus, the use of subunits provides for the recovery of very detailed provenience information as well as the actual mapping of artifacts across the site as they are encountered. During the excavations into the Jordan, Frogmore, and Richmond Hill Quarters, this methodology facilitated the recording of evidence related to "ephemeral" features such as increases in artifact density that can signal fence and/or building lines, wall lines of pier and beam structures, among other types of features. The size of the standard unit has been selected because it permits a rapid excavation of the unit, increasing the potential to observe soil interfaces. This partitioning of the standard units also makes it possible to excavate smaller units and still maintain the one by one foot provenience recording. As can be seen in figure #2, several "standard units" placed under

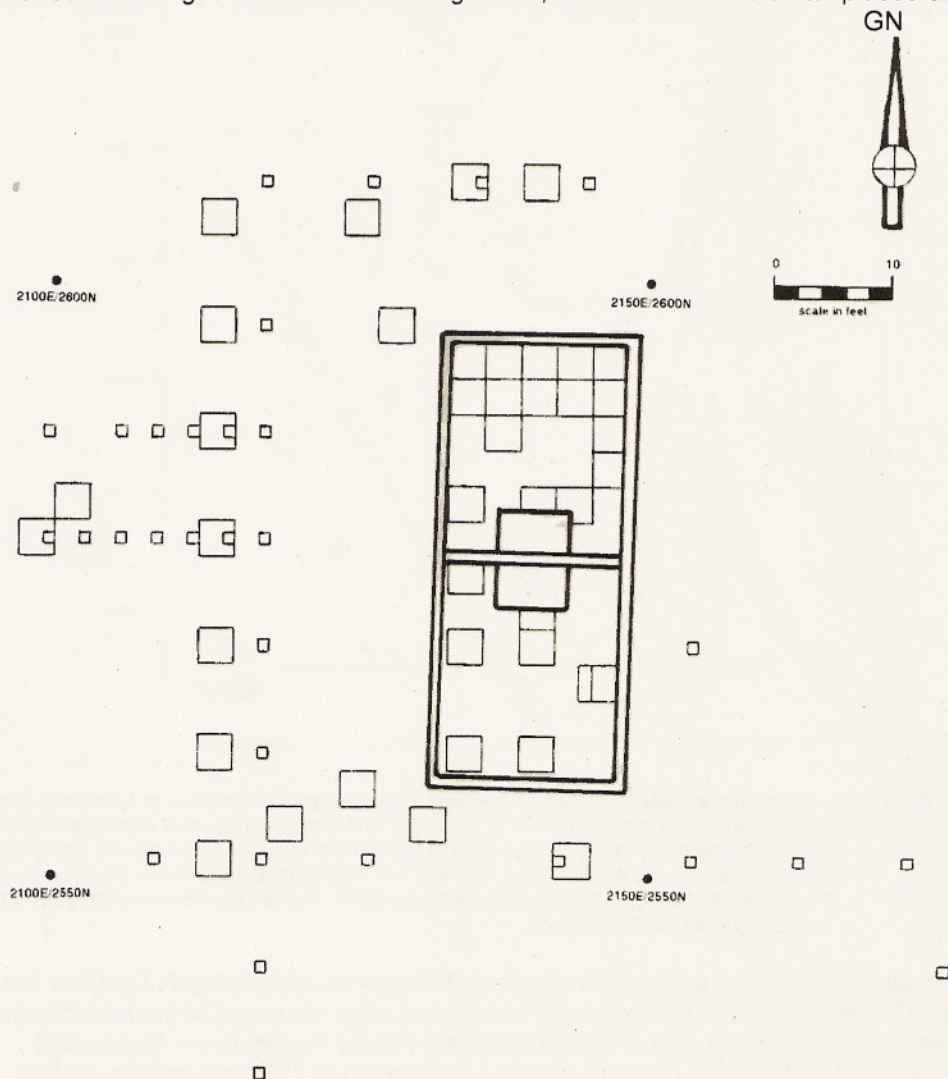


Figure #2: Map showing the units dug during the 2006 fieldwork.

the floor of cabin #1 were not fully three feet on each side. However, all of these units were established on the basis of the one by one foot subunits. During the 2006 field season, only full-sized standard units were excavated into the cabin's yard space.

The "subunit test" excavation unit consists of a one foot by one foot unit placed on the grid as if it were one of the subunits of a standard excavation unit. This type of unit was only employed in the excavation of yard space. Using this subunit testing procedure, standard excavation units could be established around any test unit to more fully investigate features or artifact concentrations discovered. In all but one case, the "subunit tests" were incorporated into the standard excavation unit as subunit #6. Thus, all artifacts recovered from the one by one test units could be placed within the established grid and be collected using the "normal" provenience controls.

A system of both arbitrary and "natural" levels was employed during the 2006 excavations. In general, unless otherwise indicated by the site's stratigraphy, the standard level depth was 0.1 foot, although the first level of excavation units placed into the yard space usually were excavated to a depth of 0.2 feet. Again, the attempt is to maintain tight provenience control during the excavation of all units. This depth has been determined to help identify, maintain, and record subtle distinctions in the vertical distribution of artifacts and features. However, if a clear soil interface was observed during the excavation of a standard 0.1 foot level, then the level was terminated at the top of the soil change, so as not to combine artifacts from separate soil types. The next level was begun as a 0.1 feet arbitrary level and the use of these shallow arbitrary levels was continued until another soil interface was noted or the unit was terminated. During the 2006 season, the use of "natural" strata to define levels less than 0.1 foot was, with the exception of two yard units, confined to the excavation of the floor space of the cabin.

Differences in soil type and/or artifact density that were noted during the excavation of a subunit and that did not extend completely across a unit or subunit were collected as a separate provenience unit. In all of these cases, provenience control was maintained through the use of a "feature" designation. Further, each feature designation was excavated and collected in levels. Thus, 0.1 cubic feet represents the largest provenience unit collected during our investigation of the cabin and associated yard space.

All of the soil removed was dry screened through one-quarter inch mesh hardware cloth. To the extent possible, artifacts were left in the ground during the excavation of each level within each subunit in order to facilitate the mapping of their exact location. Artifacts that were removed in the process of excavation were recovered in the screen and bagged with the other artifacts from each provenience unit.

II.B: The Excavations within Cabin #1:

Regarding the Magnolia Plantation Quarters, an NPS ethnographer noted that: "One black elder recalled that services were initially held at the quarters in one of the two-room cabins..." (Crespi 2004:57). Given the pattern, noted by Creel (1988), that churches/praise houses were often the "first house on the street," it was originally proposed that cabin #1 was to be the only standing cabin investigated during the course of this project (Figure #1). Cabin #1 is a typical double-pen cabin constructed at the southern end of the western row of existing brick cabins. While both pens of cabin #1 received limited excavation by NPS archaeologists in 1996 and again in 1999, these investigations impacted relatively little of the overall floor space (Figure #3). This cabin was selected for intensive excavation for two primary reasons. First, the southern pen of this standing cabin represents the "first house on the street" in the Magnolia Quarters, at least on property currently owned by the Park Service. As this is the hypothesized location for the community's church or praise house in the Gullah and Geechee areas, and was the location of the church at Jordan, excavation of the floor space of the cabin might provide data toward one of the project's goals. Second, NPS excavation near the middle of the western wall of the southern pen produced an artifact rich "trash pit" feature. Prior to 2006, archaeological testing had been conducted into six of the standing cabins and two of the areas of ruined cabins (Hahn and Wells 1991; Keel, et. al. 1999; Miller 2004). While the previous excavations under the

cabins has been generally very limited in nature, the "trash" feature encountered within the south pen of cabin #1 represents the only feature of this type noted under the floor space of the Magnolia Quarters cabins. From the standpoint of the overall project goals, the importance of this feature was that it appeared similar in many ways to several of the features that were placed under the floor of the Jordan and Richmond Hill praise houses in order to sanctify them (Brown 2003, 2005b). The NPS excavation operations into cabin #1, however, were not extensive enough to have included other areas of the floor predicted to have been locations for the placement of the other deposits that have been associated with the ritual sanctification of space.

Our investigation of cabin #1 began on May 22nd 2006 when project personnel assisted Mr. Ronald Bolton, an NPS staff member at the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, with the removal of the wooden floor and its supporting structure from the cabin. The floor (Figure #4) had been built shortly after the conclusion of the 1999 NPS excavations within the cabin's southern room (Miri 1997; Miller 2004). This floor had been built as a replacement for the badly decayed wooden floor encountered during the 1996 excavations directed by Dr. Bennie Keel, the Southeastern Regional Archaeologist for NPS (Figure #5). As a result of our project's need to accurately record and map artifact context within the archaeological deposits of the site, once the wood, concrete support piers, and gravel were removed and the NPS grid system was re-established within the yard of the cabin (Brown 2005c). The grid was then extended into both rooms of the cabin. Vertical datum points were then established within each room in order to place the units excavated within the same provenience system as the other excavation units.

Once these operations were completed, Keel's 1999 excavation units were relocated and, in all but one case, backfilled soil was removed. Keel's excavations in 1996 and 1999 included a total of six, five by five foot units. As Figures #3 and #6 show, three of

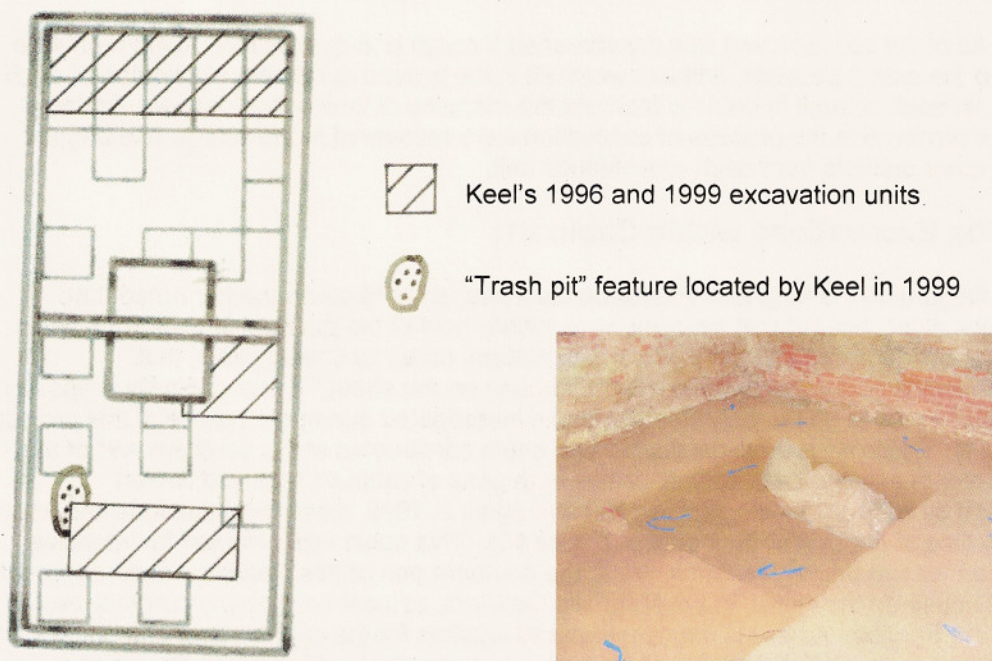


Figure #3: A drawing of cabin #1 showing the location of Keel's 1996 and 1999 units, the trash pit, and our excavation units. The photograph shows the two adjacent units placed into the south room in 1999 after it was re-opened and our excavation grid placed into the room. The plastic used to line the NPS units has been placed to protect the walls of the trash dump while our grid was staked out. The southwest corner of the cabin is in the background of the photograph.

these units had been placed along the north wall of the northern pen, one was located between the hearth and the east wall of the south pen, and the remaining two were adjacent



Figure #4: Photograph of the north wall and wooden floor of the north room of cabin #1 prior to the floor's removal during May 2006.



Figure #5: Photograph of the north end of the north room of cabin #1 during Keel's 1996 excavation (adapted from Miri 1997). Note the old wooden floorboards and the nails defining Keel's excavation units.



Figure #6: This photograph shows the north wall of the north room of cabin #1 after the removal of the NPS wooden floorboards, support beams, concrete piers, and gravel fill. This set of photographs demonstrate that at least 0.5 foot of soil, equaling the maximum depth of two and a half of Keel's units, was removed sometime after Keel's investigation and prior to our investigation of the cabin.

to one another near the center of the south pen (Miller 2004). The three units placed into the southern room were identified by the presence of the edges of the clear plastic sheeting that had been placed into the units by Keel prior to backfilling. Unfortunately, while the locations of the units that had been excavated in the south pen were immediately recognized, only a very small portion of one of the northern pen units could be located. Based upon the drawings and photographs made at the time of Keel's excavation into the north pen in 1996, approximately 0.5 feet of the soil had been removed from the pen at some point after this work was completed (Figure #6). Given Miller's (2004) comments on the trash pit feature discovered in the south pen in 1999, the same amount of soil appears to have been removed from the south pen as well. It would appear that the removal of the soil took place after the 1996 investigation and prior to the 1999 NPS investigations. Conversations with NPS personnel suggest that archaeological investigation was not conducted during the removal of this fill. Rather, the fill was simply removed so that the gravel, concrete supports, wooden beams, and new floorboards could be installed. Based on this evidence, it would appear that this soil removal is what originally exposed the trash feature in the southern pen, making it impossible to correlate the placement of this pit within the history of use of the cabin. It is also likely that the soil was removed during the removal of the old and heavily rotted wooden floor from the cabin in order to replace it prior to displaying the house.

Thus, prior to our investigation of cabin #1 the upper levels of the sub-floor deposit had been completely removed. Only limited archaeological study appears to have been conducted during this removal operation. This action eliminated potential features that might have been deposited, and, at the least, made it difficult to interpret those that remained partially intact (Miller 2004). Initially, this discovery suggested that little would be learned concerning the cabin and its use from our investigation. However, after studying the historic structure report on the cabins (Miri 1997), looking at the floor space of other cabins (particularly cabin #3), and excavating the first units into both pens, it appeared that the soil that had been removed from beneath cabin #1 was likely deposited within the cabin during the placement of the original wooden floor. It was felt that if we could determine when the wooden floor was built within the cabin, we could better assess the extent of the impact of this soil deposit's removal on any potentially significant archaeological deposits.

Another factor that likely mitigates some of the damage caused by the removal of this soil is that our investigation clearly indicated the extensive impact that resulted from rodent activity during and after the occupation of the cabin. Apparently, while this loosely



Figure #7: This photograph illustrates the extensive impact rodent burrowing has had on the upper levels of the archaeological deposit beneath cabin #1. The rodent activity can be observed across all of the eastern (right) side of the photograph. The bricks in the background form a portion of the rebuilt hearth in the south room of the cabin. The lower packed and burned earth floor can be observed at the base of the unit wall below the rodent burrow.

packed soil zone and the wooden floor were being utilized, rats, mice, and possibly other burrowing rodents infested the soil zone (Figure #7). The extent of this rodent activity can be measured by the observation that portions of rodent burrows were found in every unit we excavated within the floor space of the cabin. Artifacts contained within these burrows demonstrated the presence of rodents during the occupation of the cabin. Indeed, these artifacts suggest that the rodents were present only during the later history of the occupation. Rodent activity likely continued during the forty to forty-five years since the last occupation of cabin #1. Thus, the construction of the wooden floors, with the placement of the associated soil below the floorboards, appears to have attracted a heavy rodent infestation that likely would have negatively impacted the integrity of any potential features. As will be demonstrated, this infestation was not evident in the archaeological deposits in the cabin prior to the placement of the wooden floor.

However, one result of the excavation of the initial units placed within the two rooms was the determination that significant resources still remained relatively intact under the floor space of the cabin. As a result of this finding, a total of twenty-one units were excavated within cabin #1: thirteen into the northern room and eight in the southern. All of the excavation units placed into the floor space of cabin #1 revealed the presence of a thick, firmly compacted soil zone almost immediately below the remnants of the fill associated with the wooden floor. This zone formed a fairly level and uniform surface across both of the rooms. Excavation along the interior of the brick walls of the rooms revealed that this surface directly abutted against the brick walls. This compacted soil zone could be observed to overlay and intrude into the top of the builder's trench that was dug at the time the brick walls were constructed (Figures #8 and #9). This hard packed soil zone varied between



Figure #8: A photograph of the hard packed earthen floor (light gray soil zone near the brick wall) and the eastern brick wall of the south room as observed in unit 2145E/2568N. Note that near the wall the floor slopes downward across and into the builder's trench. This trench is visible as the dark brown stain beginning approximately 0.1 foot from the brick wall. Lower red packed earth floor was cut by the builder's trench.



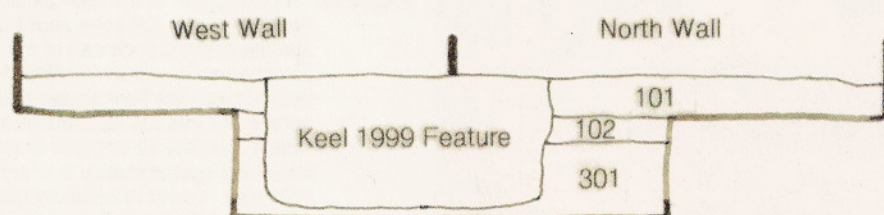
Figure #9: A photograph of the hard packed earthen floor looking westward across the northern room (the lower corner of the door can be observed in the upper left hand corner of the photograph). The dark soil stain under the bricks and parallel with the brick wall is the builder's trench. This trench has been completely capped by the packed floor. The pair of bricks on top of the packed earth floor in the foreground and those on the left side of unit 2133E/2592N appear to have functioned to support the wooden floor when it was constructed within the cabin.

0.2-0.4 feet thick, and was almost devoid of artifacts, although a few very small and broken sherds of ceramic, glass, and bone were recovered. Numerous tiny flakes of charcoal and ash were encountered during the excavation of the upper portion of the zone. This charcoal and ash, along with brick dust and the natural color of the soil combined to give this zone a distinctive orange-red color. Excavation of the zone also demonstrated that below 0.15 to 0.2 feet, the soil began to become less compact and firm, until it stopped at another compacted, red-brown floor, or graded into the natural subsoil below the cabin. All of this led to the conclusion that this zone represented the original floor of the cabin. Further, the floor likely consisted of soil that had been deposited within the rooms of the cabin as it was excavated out of the builder's trenches dug to help provide support for the brick walls.

This data appears to support the hypothesis that the cabin had had a dirt floor for a significant portion of the history of its occupation. In the case of cabin #1, historical and archaeological evidence suggests that occupation began as early as the late 1840s/early 1850s and continued into the 1960s.

II.B.1: The Features Identified during the Excavation of Cabin #1:

In addition to the original, hard-packed earth floor, a number of other features were defined during our excavations beneath the floor space of the cabin. The largest of these was the trash pit feature first noted in Keel's 1999 excavation of the southern room (Miller 2004). Once the modern wooden floor and its support structure had been removed, the two units excavated by Keel near the center of the room were reopened (Figure #3). These units were re-exposed in order to locate the feature and to observe the soil profile under the cabin prior to beginning our investigations. With the removal of the backfilled soil, the trash pit feature was observed along the northern and western walls of Keel's western unit (Figure #3 and #10). We recorded the feature's profile and collected a number of artifacts from the



Soil Zone #101: Firmly packed, brown to reddish brown (5YR 5/4-4/4) sandy-loam, many tiny charcoal and ash inclusions. The original earth floor of the cabin, with numerous medium to small brick fragments widely scattered through the zone.

Soil Zone #102: Firmly packed, dark red (2.5YR 3/6-4/6) sandy-loam banded with thin lenses of white (2.5YR 8/1) sand. This appears to have been some type of living surface prior to the construction of the brick cabin.

Soil Zone #301: Brown to dark brown sandy-silt (7.5YR 4/6). This zone appears to represent the natural subsoil found in this portion of the site.

Figure #10: Profile drawing of the trash pit feature excavated by the NPS archaeologists in 1999.

surface of the feature, and the walls originally exposed by the NPS excavations. During the course of our investigation it became clear that this pit had been dug through the original packed earth floor of the cabin. Artifacts were collected as the feature was being cleaned in order to draw its profile and when the northern end of the pit was encountered in excavation unit 2133E/2572N. The artifacts recovered during these operations included a complete fork, several glass marbles, ceramic sherds, a china button, glass fragments, animal bone, square and round wire nails, and other heavily corroded metal objects. This collection appears to match well with the artifacts recovered during Keel's excavation of the feature, as noted by Miller (2004). Miller stated that:

Upon initial discovery, we assumed that the midden might have been a sub-floor pit constructed by slaves to hide valuable, stolen, or religious items. However, after further analysis, it appears that the midden was nothing more than a refuse-filled pit. It contained charcoal fragments and an unremarkable artifact assortment....The mean ceramic date for the pit is 1891 and some items, such as the pencil fragment, were manufactured in the post emancipation period. There is no clear reason for the midden's existence (Miller 2004:162).

We collected too few ceramic sherds to make computing a mean ceramic date significant, although the sample would certainly appear to support the date generated by Miller. It is likely that the removal of approximately a half-foot of fill from below the original floorboards may have directly contributed to Miller's statement that there was "no clear reason for the midden's existence." The feature was visible on the surface of the ground as soon as the gravel fill that helped support the modern floor was removed. Thus, its relationship to the original wooden floor placed into cabin #1 cannot now be determined.

As has been noted, our initial interest in re-identifying the feature resulted from one of the outcomes of the comparative project, the feature's location and content, and the observation that this was the only such sub-floor feature to have been discovered during the various excavations into the Magnolia Quarters cabins (Hahn and Wells 1991; Keel 1999; Miller 2004). That is, one of the results of the investigations at Jordan, Frogmore Manor, and Richmond Hill has been the hypothesis that features very much like this one might represent a deposit that was associated with a possible ritual, as well as a residential, function for the cabin. Given this model, one of our goals for more extensively investigating cabin #1 was to determine if this feature constituted a discrete cluster "...of meaningful yet everyday objects...that created sacred, protected and magic space" (Ruppel, et. al. 2003:327). The feature was found to have been located near the center of the western wall of the cabin, and just to the south of the outside entrance into the room. The general contents of the feature appeared in many ways identical to artifacts recovered from two of the praise house deposits recorded at the Levi Jordan Plantation Quarters (Brown 2005b). In order to test the potential significance of the feature within this interpretive model, excavation units were established to look for the additional deposits that would have been associated (Brown 1994, 2005b; Ruppel et. al. 2003).

A total of five units were set up and excavated to test the interpretive model within the southern room of the cabin. Unit 2139E/2562N was established near the center of the southern wall of the room, immediately below the window on that wall. Units 2139E/2571N and 2139E/2574N were excavated into the northern end of the room, immediately in front of the hearth. Finally, two units 2142E/2568N (actually excavated in one by one foot subunits, but as a one by three foot unit) and 2145E/2568N were excavated near the middle of the western wall of the room, again, immediately below the window on that wall (Figure #3). If the NPS discovered feature had been part of a set of "cardinal direction altars" (Brown 2003, 2005b), then, it was believed, that the excavation of these units would recover the associated features. No artifact features were discovered within these units, suggesting that this interpretive model does not aid in explaining the function of the NPS feature. In this sense, it was likely not a ritually placed "altar." Certainly there is the possibility that the other features were removed when the original wooden floor and its associated loosely packed soil was taken out between 1996 and 1999. However, no evidence of this was observed during our excavation. Further, no evidence was discovered that any features had penetrated the original hard-packed earth floor of the room, other than the NPS trash pit. On the other hand, this does not necessarily rule out a ritual nature for the NPS feature. Indeed, the nature of the trash within the pit, its location, and the presence of a pit feature in the yard approximately ten feet to the southwest (see below), might still support a possible ritual meaning for this deposit of "trash."

A small feature was identified during the excavation of unit 2133E/2577N. This unit had been placed adjacent to the doorway that had been cut between the northern and southern rooms in an attempt to provide information on when the door had been built, changing the cabin into a two-room structure. According to the historic structures assessment report (Miri 1997) regarding "slave/tenant house #1:" "Physical examination of the features in the cabins indicates that each structure was constructed as two separate rooms with no connecting doorway" (Miri 1997:1). Further, the report goes on to state that: "interior doors were added sometime in the twentieth century, based on the wire nails found in the door frames" (Miri 1997:8). While only wire nails were present at the time the data was collected for the structure report, it was our belief that, by itself, this was not conclusive evidence related to when the wall was breeched and the internal doorway built. The nail evidence may well date the final construction/refurbishing of the doorway, but earlier doors and thresholds could have been completely replaced during any renovation operation. Therefore, it was hoped that the placement of excavation units adjacent to the doorways might provide additional support for this hypothesized date of construction, and permit a more accurate presentation of the structures to park visitors.

It was initially believed that a small artifact feature discovered in subunits #5 and #6 of unit 2133E/2577N might aid in answering the question concerning when the wall was breeched. Like the larger NPS trash pit, located approximately six feet to the south, this feature was observed on the surface of the ground during the removal of the modern wooden floor and its supporting gravel. The surface of the feature covered less than one square foot and it extended to a depth of only 0.2 feet below the ground surface. This feature consisted of a number of artifacts, including small pearlware and ironstone ceramic sherds; several sherds of a small glass cup or bowl; a glass marble; a small mirror fragment; several small chicken eggshell fragments; small bone fragments that revealed no evidence of rodent gnawing; metal objects, including fragments of a large utensil handle; tiny charcoal and ash flakes; and several small polished pebbles (Figure #11). These artifacts appeared



Figure #11: The photograph on the left shows the surface of 2133E/2577N, level #1, note that the glass bottle is not yet visible below the plaster fragments that have fallen onto the packed earth floor. The small artifact feature located in subunits #5 and 6 is beginning to be uncovered. The photograph on the right shows the location of this small artifact feature in relationship to the glass bottle. The brick wall dividing the two rooms can be observed at the upper portion of both of the photographs. As can be observed, the bottle visible in the upper left corner of the photograph on the right was located very close to the exact center of the doorway between the two rooms of the cabin, and had been placed into a small hole dug through the room's packed earth floor.

to have been placed into a shallow depression that had been dug into the compact earthen floor of the southern room. Unlike the soil matrix of the gravel placed by the NPS above the feature, the feature's soil matrix consisted of light gray (7.5YR 7/1) sandy silt. This soil

matrix was similar in many ways to that observed in the numerous rodent burrows found throughout the upper levels of excavation units placed within the cabin. Thus, it is possible that this cluster of artifacts resulted from rodent nesting activities. This hypothesis is supported by the high organic content of the soil and the presence of other pieces of the same glass bowl/mug found as far as twelve feet away. Unfortunately, as a direct result of the removal of the soil placed when the original wooden floor was constructed, the interpretation of this feature remains unclear, as does its possible significance.

As can also be observed in Figure #11, a small glass bottle was discovered in subunit #2 of 2133E/2577N. Based on production attributes this patent bottle appears to have been made between 1880 and the early 1900s. Artifacts associated with the bottle included chicken eggshells, a large ironstone sherd, and a piece of mortar that appeared to have been placed on the bottom of the hole dug for the bottle. Unlike the artifact feature to the southeast, however, the bottle was buried in a hole dug through the packed earth floor and into the builder's trench of the brick wall. The rim of the bottle was first encountered near the base of level #1 after the excavation of approximately 0.1 of a foot of the cabin's packed earth floor. This discovery supports the hypothesis that the bottle had been placed at some point prior to the construction of the initial wooden floor within the southern room. Indeed, the bottle had been placed below the surface of the floor and across the exact center of the doorway. At the time of its recovery, the bottle was almost completely empty. Given that the opening of the bottle was not covered and was higher than the rest of the bottle, soil should have been expected to have at least partially filled the bottle since its deposition. This does not appear to have happened to any degree, and might suggest that the packed earth floor had not only been rapidly replaced once the bottle had been placed, but that fragments of the floor that had been removed during the digging of the hole had been tightly packed around the bottle preventing loose soil from entering the bottle. If this had been the case, then the possibility exists that the placement of the bottle had been deliberate and that the act of its deposition was intended to go unobserved and remain undiscovered.

Thus, the bottle's location, rapid burial, and the apparent attempt to obscure its presence beneath the floor provide support for the hypothesis that this bottle was placed for some purpose other than the simple disposal of an empty bottle. This evidence also suggests that the bottle was deposited prior to the construction of the wooden floor within this room of the cabin. Given the age of the bottle, this would support the belief that the doorway was present sometime during the occupation of the cabin by tenant farmers. The presence of a second buried bottle near the eastern wall of the north room further supports the ritual nature of the placement of this patent medicine bottle. That is, a Hoyt's Nickel Cologne bottle was discovered buried in a shallow hole excavated into the hard packed earth floor of the cabin in subunit #5 of unit 2145E/2589N in the northern room. The location of this bottle was beneath the center of the window/door in the eastern wall of the northern room of the cabin. While initially constructed as a window, this opening was enlarged into a doorway when the cabin was modified and a third room was added to the back of the cabin. This framed room housed the kitchen. Given that the bottle likely dates to the 1880s-90s, this alteration may have occurred during this time. The bottle, like the patent medicine bottle placed beneath the interior doorway, may have been deposited for ritual purposes important in the lives of the cabin's occupants at the time.

The only other features identified during this season's excavations into the floor space of cabin #1 appear to have functioned together, and support the hypothesis that an earlier structure had been built on this portion of the site. Included within this set of features are a posthole, several discontinuous portions of what appeared to be a highly compacted earth floor (possibly of more than a single structure), and a thick charcoal and ash deposit on the surface of one of the sections of this earlier earth floor. The posthole feature was observed in two adjacent units: subunits #6 and #9 of unit 2142E/2568N and subunits #4 and #7 of unit 2145E/2568N. This location places the feature a little less than two feet west

of the cabin's eastern brick wall. Like the other postholes discovered during our excavations this field season, this one was square and measured approximately one foot on a side. With the exception of the smaller rectangular post mold, the fill of the posthole consisted of a brown sandy loam (7.5YR 4/2) mottled with reddish brown (5YR 5/4) sandy silt. The post mold measured approximately 0.6 by 0.7 feet, and had been set to a depth of nearly 1.6 feet below ground surface. The fill of the post mold was a very dark brown (7.5 YR 2.5/2) sandy loam. A number of small brick fragments and a complete, though it had a broken hinge, brass locket were noted within the fill of the post mold. The fill surrounding the postmold was essentially sterile. The posthole was identified near the base of the packed earth floor of the brick cabin. However, a rodent burrow was also observed to have penetrated the original packed earth floor of the cabin, either from the posthole or into the posthole, thus connecting the posthole/mold through the packed earth floor to the fill added during the construction of the wooden floor. While it was possible to distinguish the fill of the rodent burrow from that of both the posthole and the postmold, the burrow did raise a question concerning the date of the locket as it was found in the postmold deposit but very close to the rodent burrow. This stratigraphy would suggest that the post might have been removed shortly before the construction of the cabin and prior to the accumulation of soil and the formation of the packed earth floor of the cabin over the posthole. This observation might support the hypothesis that the packed earth floor was produced from the soil removed from the builder's trenches excavated for the support of the brick walls. The deposition of this soil inside the cabin would have initially raised the cabin's floor somewhat above the level of the surrounding ground surface. However, as the soil became compacted by the use of the cabin, the elevation of the floor, in relation to the ground surface surrounding the cabin, would have become lowered. At that point, only the brick walls and mortar would have prevented the interior space of the cabin from becoming flooded during periods of heavy rainfall.

Closely associated with this posthole was a second, packed earth floor that was encountered below the cabin's original packed earth floor (see Figure #8). Unlike the original cabin floor, the one associated with the posthole had an almost brick red color that was likely the result of its having been burned. This floor was found in several locations almost immediately below the cabin's original floor in both rooms of the cabin. Indeed, in most places where both earthen floors were encountered, they were only distinguishable by their distinctive colors. The only excavation units where both floors were not observed were those dug near the northeastern corner of the north room (2142E/2595N), and the entire eastern wall of the cabin (2145E/2568N, 2145E/2586N, 2145E/2589N, and 2145E/2592N). Along the eastern wall of the cabin the lower red earth floor ended approximately 2.5 feet from the builder's trench. Thus, the construction of the eastern wall of the cabin likely had no impact on this floor. The post noted in unit 2142E/2568N appears to have formed part of the eastern wall of whatever type of structure was associated with the brick red floor. The lower floor was also encountered within units 2139E/2595N, 2142E/2592N, and 2142E/2595N near the northern wall of the cabin. Within these units the floor gives the appearance of "tapered out" toward the northeast, and is associated with a large number of brick fragments (Figure # 12).

Outside of the cabin this lower packed earth floor was found in only two excavation units: eastern wall of unit 2127E/2598N (associated with another posthole) immediately west of the cabin's western wall and associated with a posthole (Figure #3), and in the northeastern corner of unit 2124E/2559N. As will be discussed below, in both of these cases the red packed earth floor and the posthole appear to have been preserved as a result of their having been protected under the front porch of the cabin. Indeed, based upon the discovery of a line of similar postholes in the front yard to the west, the cabin appears to have prevented the destruction of the floor over the past 175 years, as those found in the yard appear to have been plowed over for a period of time prior to the use of the area as a yard. Unfortunately, no temporally diagnostic ceramics were recovered from this floor or the



Figure #12: A photograph showing the northeastern edge of the lower, burned hard-packed floor in unit 2139E/2595N. The edge is associated with a large number of broken and/or crushed bricks. The darker soil matrix appears to be the original "A" horizon prior to the construction of either the earlier structure or cabin #1.

postholes under the cabin and its porch. As will be noted, however, ceramics recovered from the postholes in the front yard would tend to place the construction and use of the pre-brick cabin structure(s) as early as the late 1700s, and certainly prior to 1820.

This portion of the plantation appears to have been utilized for agricultural purposes prior to the construction of the structures associated with the red packed-earth floor and postholes. In all of the units that were excavated through the red packed earth floor clear evidence of this use was observed in the form of plow scars (Figure #13). The scars generally run from the southeast to the northwest, and appear to be approximately perpendicular to the property line for land owned by Gaspard LaCour in the early 1800s.

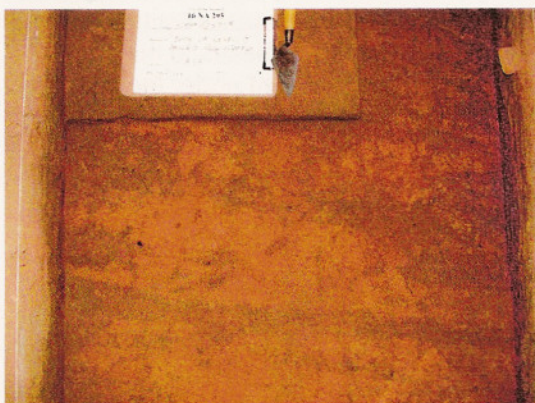


Figure #13: A photograph of the base of level #8 in unit 2139E/2571N showing the linear plow scars observed below the red packed-earth floor.

II.B.2: A Summary of the Artifacts Recovered from Cabin #1:

Despite the early stage of our analysis of the artifacts recovered from the 2006 field season, a number of tentative statements can be made related to the goals of this project. The first statement would be that a vast majority of artifacts recovered from within cabin #1 were found in what remained of the soil zone associated with the construction of the original wooden floor. Unfortunately, our investigation demonstrated that many of these artifacts appeared to have been recovered from the fill of rodent burrows. Thus, few of the artifacts were discovered from primary archaeological contexts that are likely to permit significant behavioral interpretations related to the use of the cabin beyond its residential function. As might be expected from the archaeological context, the artifacts tended to be uniformly small and badly broken, as were those recovered outside of the numerous rodent burrows. This finding, along with the soil type that comprised the matrix placed below the wooden floor, might suggest that this soil came from the yard area adjacent to the cabin when the floor

was constructed. Further, taken as a whole, the small amount of material recovered from outside of the rodent burrows appears to support a much wider temporal range for the occupation of the cabin than appears to have been the case for those taken from the rodent burrows where artifacts of a recent date of manufacture were far more numerous. The artifacts recovered from the remaining sub-floor soil appear almost identical in temporal range and general size to the artifacts removed from the yard to the west of the cabin. Thus, the artifacts recovered from the soil associated with the construction of the wooden floor supports the hypothesis that this floor, originally investigated by Keel in 1996 (Miller 2004), was constructed late in the cabin's history of occupation, likely after the 1939 tornado, and possibly even slightly later.

The range of artifacts collected provides support for the oral and written historical accounts that state that cabin #1 served as a residence. However, only very limited data has been developed to determine the number of families that might have occupied the cabin at any point during its use. That evidence is limited to the later post-bellum occupation continuing into the early 1960s. Unfortunately, at the moment, the artifact collection does not appear to provide any conclusive data related to the number of families that occupied the cabin during its use prior to the 1940s. The most direct archaeological evidence related to the occupation of the cabin by a single family during the last phase of its use includes two small toy tools that might have come from a single original set. One toy was recovered under each of the two rooms (Figure #14). Two factors likely preclude the possibility that the toys could have been placed under each room by non-human actions. These factors are: the observation that the toys were discovered in the loose soil matrix that had been placed to help provide support to the wooden floor boards and not within numerous rodent burrows found in that soil, and the depth of the brick wall bases below ground surface. Further, several ceramic and glass sherds were recovered from beneath both rooms of the cabin that could have been fragments of the same ceramic or glass vessel. However, this is based on similarities in the type of ceramic (e.g., plain ironstone) or glass (a decorated light green drinking glass or small bowl) and not, as yet, on the cross mending of pieces to the same vessel. At least thirty glass marbles were recovered from the soil placed under the cabin during the construction of the wooden floor. Approximately seventy percent of these came from the southern room.



Figure #14: A photograph of several of the plastic toys recovered from the floor space of cabin #1. The wrench (recovered from the north room) and the hammer (south), both originally had a loop on their upper end, possibly for suspension, may have belonged to the same set of toy tools.

Limited field analysis of the ceramic sherds collected suggests that the recovered ceramic assemblage includes predominantly undecorated ironstone, porcelain, stoneware (both salt glazed and Albany slipped), and yellowware. Very small pearlware and whiteware sherds were recovered in extremely low frequency beneath the floor area of the cabin. The pearlware and whiteware sherds recovered were primarily associated with the lower, burned packed earth floor by having been incorporated into the floor, found beneath this floor, or located within the soil adjacent to this floor. A few very fragmentary pieces of pearlware were found within the packed earth matrix of the original cabin floor, suggesting that pearlware ceramics were still in use while the floor was being formed. Decorated ceramics recovered from under the cabin included transfer printed ironstone, shell-edged pearlware, and painted porcelain, along with several fragments of porcelain and bisque doll fragments. While older ceramic types were recovered in very limited quantities from the yard area immediately west of the cabin, no colonoware, creamware, or tin-glazed earthenware sherds were recovered from our excavations under cabin #1. Tentatively, the ceramic evidence appears to provide support for our hypothesized sequence of construction and occupation of cabin #1 (see the Discussion Section below).

Two complete bottles were recovered during the excavation of the floor space of cabin #1: the medicine bottle found below the interior door noted above, and a small cologne bottle (Figure #15 and #16). The patent medicine bottle was made of clear glass that has almost no bubbles and a seam ending approximately half way up the neck. These attributes suggest that the bottle was produced sometime around the turn of the 20th century. This bottle measures 5.0 inches tall by 1.6 inches long and 0.8 inches wide. The tiny cologne bottle stands 2.5 inches high and has an outside diameter of 0.95 inches. On one side of the bottle is a rectangular indentation in the glass within which the words "Hoyt's Nickel Cologne" were written in raised letters. The bottle is similar to the one noted on a historic advertising card found in the Cloutier Collection in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Northwestern State University. Based on the mold seam on the bottle and the embossed lettering, a late 19th or early 20th century date for the manufacture of this bottle appears likely. Indeed, the bottle recovered is likely somewhat older than the one depicted on the advertising card. The Hoyt's Cologne bottle was recovered from unit 2145E/2589N



Figure #15: The Hoyt's Nickel Cologne bottle.

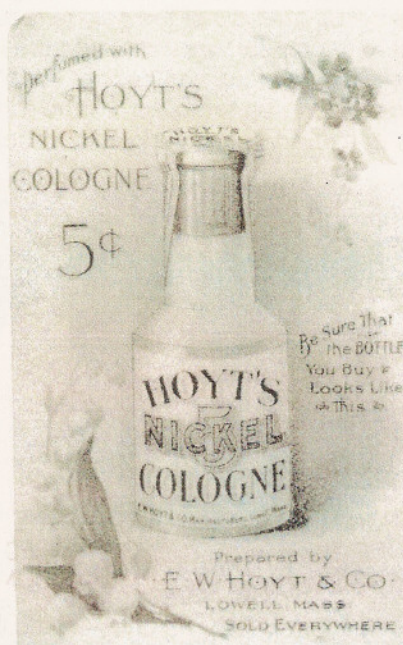


Figure #16: A card advertising the cologne.

approximately one foot from the eastern wall of the northern room of the cabin, and immediately below the window/door in the wall. Like the patent medicine bottle found beneath the internal doorway, this bottle was found beneath the center of the window/door. While a number of conjure tricks involve the use of cologne (Puckett 1926), at least one source cites Henry Middleton Hyatt's five volume compendium interviews with curers and conjurers across the South for the importance of Hoyt's Cologne to African Americans (Yronwode 2003). According to Yronwode, Hoyt's was considered to bring powerful luck in love affairs, money matters, and gambling. At least one oral historical account, collected at the site in an interview conducted by NPS staff member Rolonda Teal, in May 2005 states that during the 1950s-60s cabin #1, while primarily a residence, was known for the gambling that took place there (Teal 2005, personal communication). In light of this oral testimony, collected prior to and independently of our excavations into and around cabin #1, the recognized importance of Hoyt's Nickel Cologne for African Americans across the south provides support for the interpretation of this bottle as part of a "trick" to help manipulate the outcome of gambling activities that took place within the cabin.

Two Medals of the Immaculate Conception, more popularly known as Miraculous Medals (Figure #17), were recovered from units 2133E/2583N and 2133E/2592N in the northern room of the cabin. One additional metal object recovered during the excavation of the southern room of the cabin, in unit 2139E/2571N may also have been a religious medal. This artifact has the general shape and size of the two Miraculous Medals, but its surface is too heavily corroded to confirm it as a medal. The Miraculous Medal recovered from unit 2133E/2583N was made of gold; small, with the body of the medal measuring 0.7 by 0.45 inches; and had a loop affixed to the top of the medal so that it could be worn. The other definite medal appears to have been made of aluminum and is slightly longer and narrower than the one made of gold, measuring 0.95 by 0.60 inches and also with a loop for suspension when it was worn. Analysis has yet to determine the type of metal employed in making the third religious medal, if that is, indeed, what it is. The heavy corrosion and comparative weight of the piece demonstrates that it was not gold, aluminum, or any of the metals generally employed in the making of religious medals. Only its size, shape, and method of attachment suggest that it might have been a religious medal of some type. The object measures 0.93 by 0.66 inches, not including the loop attachment. As will be discussed in more detail, analysis of the gold Miraculous Medal has determined that a small portion of the front of the medal was modified from its original configuration when the medal was struck. In this case, the face and neck of the Virgin Mary had been altered and the earth she was standing on was removed (Figure #29). The aluminum medal does not appear to have been altered from its originally struck form.



Figure #17: The two Miraculous Medals discovered under the north room of the cabin.

Other metal artifacts recovered during our excavation of the cabin include a 1 mil aluminum Louisiana Luxury Tax token (Figure #18), coins, and a brass locket. The token is identical to the two recovered during Keel's testing of the Quarters area (Keel 1999:57). The token was found in unit 2133E/2562N near the southwestern corner of the south room of the cabin. In Louisiana, luxury tax tokens were issued during an approximately four and one half year time period beginning in 1936. Their use within the state was abolished after December 31, 1940. Citizens were given until March 31, 1941 to redeem their tokens for cash, though an estimated 27% of them have never been redeemed (Crawford, et. al.



Figure #18: The Louisiana Luxury Tax Token recovered from the southern room.

1982:334). Twenty coins were recovered from within the cabin; sixteen from the northern room and four from the southern room. One coin (a 1961 penny) was discovered under the northern edge of the wooden porch we have hypothesized as having been built on the western side of the cabin. Of the coins recovered from beneath the cabin floor there were fifteen pennies, two nickels, one dime, and two quarters. Taken together these coins range in date from 1907 through 1967: five coins have dates after 1960; five have dates ranging between 1950 and 1959; six coins date to the 1940s; and only one coin dates prior to 1940 (the 1907 nickel). The 1907 nickel was found adjacent to the west wall of the north room's hearth incorporated within the original packed earth floor of the cabin. All of the other coins, and the tax token, came from the fill deposited within the cabin as part of the construction of the wooden floor, many of them within rodent burrows. Given the date range of the coins, the stratigraphy of the cabin, and the historically documented reconstruction of the Quarters after the 1939 tornado, this temporal distribution is interesting, and may provide the best support for our hypothesis that the construction of the cabin's wooden floor took place when the cabin was refurbished after the tornado.

The locket was recovered from the southern room of the cabin in subunit #9 of 2142E/2568N, near the base of the posthole feature (Figure #19). Although both halves of the locket were recovered, the hinge, placed at the base, had been broken at some point in the past, possibly prior to its placement in the fill of the posthole. The locket is circular, measuring 1.4 inches in diameter. The interior of each half of the locket is covered by clear glass. What appear to be small pieces of paper, likely from some type of picture, can be observed beneath the glass in both of the halves. The exterior brass surfaces of both halves retain faint images of a nearly identical elaborately incised design. This design includes a central disc from which a number of raised radiating lines divide the surface into eight equal parts. Each of these eight sections then contain twenty-four incised lines that also radiate out from the central disc. Where the designs on each half differ is in the presence of small curved lines and tick marks. One side of the locket has four lines that radiate out from the



Figure #19: A photograph of the exterior of both halves of the locket showing the original design struck on the brass and the curved "arrows" etched into the half on the left.

central disc and appear to form curved arrows ending with stylized points. Each "arrow" begins and ends near one of four of the heavy raised lines in a counter clock-wise fashion. Thus, the incised arrows appear to divide the surface into four equal sections. However, unlike the background elements of the design, the arrows and their points show evidence of having been made after the piece was originally struck. The lines that comprise the "arrow shafts" and "points" do not have the same curve, length, or shape to the point. The tick marks associated with the arrows are small and occur in only two lines of three marks. The reverse side of the locket lacks the arrows, but has at least three lines of large tick marks that closely resemble "comas." Concerns for the preservation of the possible paper fragments remaining under the glass have delayed the cleaning of the locket and a more detailed analysis of these designs. However, it appears that the design on the exterior surfaces of the locket was altered at some point during its use. The alteration, especially the suggestion of a counter clock-wise directionality and the division into four fields, resembles the so-called cosmogram symbol found on artifacts recovered from African American contexts within the New World (Ferguson 1989, 1992, 1999; Brown 1994, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005b; Fennell 2003; Ruppel, et. al. 2003). Unfortunately, how the locket came to be placed within the posthole could not be determined, although the fill suggested that it could have occurred shortly after the post was removed, possibly during the construction of the cabin.

III.A: Excavation of the Yard Associated with Cabin #1:

Seventeen standard units and thirteen test units were excavated into the yard space of cabin #1 during the 2006 fieldwork. These units were primarily placed into the "front yard" of the cabin in an attempt to provide information on the following issues: whether or not areas of the yard had been employed for special kinds of activities; to determine the size of the front yard, extent of deposits, and any changes in the use history of the yard; to ascertain the presence, location, and extent of any fence lines that might have been associated with the cabin, and to determine whether or not archaeological evidence exists related to the use of the area prior to the construction of the brick cabins. For each of these units the first level was excavated to 0.2 foot below unit datum in an attempt to clear recent vegetation. All subsequent levels were 0.1 foot in depth unless a clear soil change was noted across each subunit. These units were excavated until they were sterile. Unlike the standard, three feet by three feet units excavated inside cabin #1, those placed into the yard were excavated through level #1 before they were divided into subunits.

Two units were placed to specifically look for evidence to test the hypothesis that a raised wooden porch had been built onto the front of the cabin. Historic photographs of the cabins (see Miri 1997) demonstrate that at least two types of porches were built onto cabins within the Magnolia Quarters: one type consisting of a simple shingled roof supported by posts and having a dirt floor, and the second type having the same roof line and posts along the western edge of the porch with a wooden floor supported, in part, by piers of some form. Cabin #1 currently has been restored with the first type of porch. Our investigation was, in part, intended to provide evidence related to the history of the use of this area of the cabin's yard, including the type of porch, if any, present. Unit 2124E/2559N was specifically placed to provide evidence related to the southern end of the porch, while 2127E/2598N was set in an attempt to locate the northern end. As a result of the heavy traffic into and out of the cabin during the fieldwork, it was decided to forego attempting to determine the location of the western edge of the porch until the excavation of the cabin's interior had been completed. This will be attempted during the 2007 field season along with more extensive excavation of the area covered by the porch. Based upon the results derived from these two units, evidence for at least one raised wooden porch was recovered, and there was limited evidence to suggest that a second, earlier, one might have been built. The evidence related to the presence of at least the latter wooden porch was obtained from both units and included soil (both compaction and color) and artifact size and distribution difference along what appears to have been the northern and southern edges of the porch.

Evidence obtained from unit 2127E/2598N related to the porch included the pattern of soil compaction, the distribution of artifacts north to south through the unit, and the presence of a rectangular shaped rock with a relatively flat upper surface that might have served as a pier support for the porch (Figure #20). A second such rock was observed from



Figure #20: Photograph of unit 2127E/2598N at the base of level #1. The large rock in the southeast corner of the unit may have served as a pier for cabin #1's front porch. The large metal artifact (a modern lawnmower blade) appears to be oriented with the line of the northern edge of the porch.

the surface of the ground abutting the brick wall approximately 3.0 feet east of the rock found in unit 2127E/2598N. The northern face of both rocks form a line that runs parallel to the northern wall of the cabin and less than 0.1 feet south of that line. The soil beneath the rock was considerably more compact than the general soil matrix found in the southern nearly two-thirds of the unit through a depth of 0.3 feet. While the weight of the rock may account for some of the compaction of the soil, it seemed doubtful that the degree and depth of the firm soil beneath suggested that the rock was not the only weight the soil was bearing. Present in this southern and softer soil matrix were a number of large artifacts including brick fragments, ceramic and glass sherds, metal objects such as nails and a lawnmower blade, and bone fragments. Compact soil almost identical to the earth floors identified within the cabin was encountered across approximately the northern one-third of the unit to a depth of nearly 0.4 feet. This soil contained very few artifacts and those that were encountered were extremely small and heavily battered.

Unit 2127E/2598N yielded at least two features that appear to have been related to the earlier structure(s) associated with the red packed earth floor noted beneath the floor space of cabin #1. All of these features were observed in the southeast quadrant of the unit, and include two postholes and a hard-packed, but "crumbly," dark brown (7.5YR 3/3-3/4) sandy silt soil lens. The posthole feature was observed along the east wall extending into the unit less than one foot. When it was initially defined, this feature measured nearly 1.5 feet north to south, and appeared to have contained a single, though quite large post. However, at a depth of approximately 1.2 feet below datum it became clear that either two posts were contained within the same hole, or the feature actually consisted of two postholes with one having intruded into the other. Below this split between the actual postholes, the southern one continued for an additional 0.2 feet before this part of the feature suddenly ended with a flat base. The northern posthole, however, continued for more than 0.5 feet before it too terminated with a flat base (Figure #21). As a result of more recent rodent activity, it is impossible to determine whether or not two independent postholes had been dug within the feature, whether two posts had been placed into the single hole, or, if two holes had been dug, which had been intruded into the other.



Figure #21: A photograph showing the posthole identified in near to east wall of unit 2127E/2598N. The feature can be seen just to the right of the clipboard primarily in subunit #6.

Unit 2124E/2559N recovered essentially the same evidence as 2127E/2598N in terms of the distribution of soil types and artifacts, although no evidence of a pier support was found. This might have resulted from the placement of 2124E/2559N almost two feet further west of the cabin. If a pier had been placed the same distance from the cabin on the south, as was the case on the north, then the pier would have been located almost two feet east of the unit. The soils encountered in unit 2124E/2559N differed from those noted in 2127E/2598N only in the larger area of heavily compact "yard" surface. That is, the southern two-thirds of the unit consisted of heavily compact soil with only a few, very small artifacts, while in the northern one-third the soil matrix was less compact and the artifacts were slightly more numerous and clearly larger and less battered. The larger size of the so-called yard in 2124E/2559N provides further evidence supporting the interpretation of a raised porch. As can be observed in Figure #3, if one extends the line of the exterior of the southern wall of the cabin to the west, it passes through unit 2124E/2559N at a point almost exactly where the compact soil ends and the less compact soil begins—the reverse of the soil evidence recovered from 2127E/2598N.

The distribution of soil types (based on the degree of compaction), artifact density, and artifact size supports the hypothesis that a raised wooden porch had been built onto the western side of cabin #1 at sometime in the history of the cabin's use. The lawnmower blade and other artifacts suggest that this porch was constructed sometime after 1900 and continued to function until the end of the cabin's occupation. The oral history related to the

occupation of cabin #1 suggests that this porch may have decayed and/or been removed after the 1960s when the cabin ceased functioning as a residence.

Unit 2124E/2559N yielded two features not observed in 2127E/2598N, one of which was clearly not related to the presence of the wooden porch. The first of these was the apparently intentional "burial" of an amber glass bottle under the raised porch just to the north of the southern edge of the porch (Figures #22 and #23). This bottle was located near

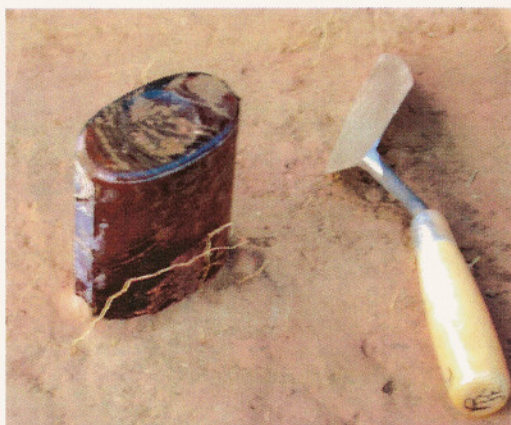


Figure #22: The amber bottle during its excavation.



Figure #23: The small hole around the bottle.

the northwest corner of subunit #6, 5.0 feet from the wall of the cabin, and west of the mid-line of the porch. The bottle had been placed upside down into a small hole apparently dug solely for that purpose, as the diameter of the hole was less than one inch larger than the width of the bottle and no other artifacts were recovered with the bottle. This hole was deep enough to have been dug through the early, red packed earth floor noted beneath the floor of cabin #1. At the time of its recovery the bottle was completely empty, and no stopper or cap was found. The condition of the soil around the mouth of the bottle suggests that no stopper was present when the bottle was placed into the hole. Evidence related to the manufacture of the bottle suggests that it was made sometime after 1900 (Figure #24). No



Figure #24: A photograph of the bottle after it was removed from the ground.

reliable date for its deposition was recovered from the feature, although the condition of the bottle might suggest that placement occurred shortly after the contents of the bottle had been consumed. The location of the bottle (immediately under the edge of the porch); its rapid and, apparently intentional burial; the complete lack of other artifacts; and its orientation (not following the actual porch/cabin line) might suggest that the bottle was placed for some purpose other than the simple disposal of an empty bottle. Indeed, the bottle's placement might suggest it was intended as a hoodoo/voodoo deposit since one would step over the hidden bottle when walking onto the porch (Puckett 1926; Snow 1998).

The second feature noted in unit 2124E/2559N was a filled pit found in the northwest quadrant of the unit (Figure #25). While the profile of the north wall of the unit demonstrates that the pit appears to have been dug from the modern ground surface, the feature was not immediately noted during excavation of the unit. Tourists visiting the cabin #1 have created a firmly packed "floor" along the entire western front of the cabin. The compact nature of this



Figure #25: A photograph of the northern wall of unit 2124E/2559N showing a profile of the refilled pit feature.

walkway, and the mixing of the soil and other materials obscured the presence of the feature through a depth of just over 0.3 feet below datum. The profile of the feature demonstrates that at the surface of the ground the pit is fairly large. While it has not yet been fully exposed, the feature measured at least two feet (east to west) by one and a half feet (north to south). However, at a depth of nearly 0.4 feet below the surface of the ground, the feature rapidly narrows to an area that measured 0.9 feet (east to west) by 1.1 foot (north to south). At that depth the walls of the feature became almost vertical, and continued to a depth of 0.9 feet below datum. Unfortunately, excavation of the feature was halted at that level due to the close of fieldwork for 2006. This unit will be re-opened and completed during 2007, so that the feature can be more fully interpreted. However, at the moment the profile of this feature and the artifacts contained within its fill suggest that the initial pit was dug to help support a large post. The location of the feature just north of the southern edge of the cabin, and approximately seven feet from the western wall might support the hypothesis that the hole was initially dug to accommodate a support post for the cabin's original earth floored porch. The larger upper portion of the feature could then have been the result of the removal of this post at some point prior to the construction of the raised wooden one. The fill of the hypothesized posthole contained brick fragments, mortar, and many small artifacts that might have been thrown into the pit in order to help fill the hole after the post had been removed. Additional excavation of the feature, as well as units placed along the western edge of the porch, should provide the evidence to test this interpretation.

Test units excavated into the front yard of cabin #1 during the spring and summer of 2006 revealed at least three apparent postholes and an artifact distribution that suggested fence lines that, based upon historic photographs, might have been associated with the occupation of the cabin (Miri 1997). One of the postholes discovered during the initial testing of the front yard was observed in the northwest quadrant of test unit 2114E/2579N. The discovery of this posthole was the primary factor in determining the placement of the units north to south along the 2112E grid line. Excavation unit 2112E/2580N incorporated test unit 2114E/2579N as its subunit #6 (Figure #3), placing the posthole very near the center of the larger unit. It was believed that if this posthole was associated with the fence along the western side of cabin #1's yard, then this line of units would permit the definition of the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the yard, if a fence had been constructed during the occupation of the cabin. However, the data derived from the excavation of the 2112E line of units revealed the location of only the northern fence line associated with cabin

earth floor noted under the cabin, suggesting that the various features may be related to an occupational use of the area prior to the Lecomte's decision to build the brick cabins. The potential pattern was the discovery that two of the postholes contained the bases of green glass bottles and chicken eggshell fragments (Figures #27 and 28). In both cases, the bottle bases were recovered from the fill placed around the post. Whether or not this represents a pattern, and the meaning (if any) behind the placement of the objects requires additional excavation of other postholes dated to this utilization of this portion of the site.



Figure #27: The green glass bottle base found in the posthole in unit 2112E/2580N.



Figure #28: The green glass bottle base recovered from the posthole in unit 2112E/2571N.

Finally, excavations conducted during both 2005 and 2006 indicated both the northern and southern fence lines for the yard space associated with cabin #1. Units 2112E/2607N and 2124E/2607N revealed evidence of the northern edge, while excavation unit 2112E/2553N, and test units 2117E/2552N, 2117E/2543N (dug during 2005) provide evidence for the southern edge. This evidence consists of a greatly increased artifact density along and immediately on either side of the fence line. The units across the western front of the cabin had a uniformly low artifact density, suggesting that the yard was kept relatively clean except along its edges. Additional investigation into the northern and southern portions of the yard will be undertaken in an attempt to actually locate features, such as postholes, that might indicate the presence/absence of an actual fence. The higher artifact density of debris/trash along the edges of the yard should also make it possible to determine the size of the yard space around cabin #1.

III.B: A Summary of the Artifacts Recovered from the Yard:

As might be expected, our excavations into the yard area provided an artifact assemblage supporting the post-1850s construction and residential use of cabin #1, as well as the "staging" area for the materials employed in the reconstruction work that has been done on the cabin over the past twenty years. A large quantity of gravel, roofing nails with lead heads, framing nails, brick fragments, and mortar were recovered to a depth of 0.3 feet in the northern three units on the 2112E line. Generally this material was found to overlay the hypothesized yard surface created when the cabin was occupied. However, the restoration activities, as seen in these units, did impact the upper surface of the original yard. Fortunately, the impact to the archaeological deposit was minor and limited to the upper 0.1 to 0.2 feet of the yard. The primary impact of this material, for our investigation, was in the time and effort required to collect, classify, weigh, and redeposit the material. Based upon our investigations this field season, the impact of the restoration activities to date has been limited to the northwestern quadrant of the front yard, although a portion of the northern fence line/yard boundary has been adversely affected. The non-construction artifacts recovered from this deposit included clear and brown/amber bottle glass; several fragments of a coca cola bottle; aluminum cans; "tin" can fragments; plastic buttons; and a 1984 quarter

that was recovered in unit 2112E/2607N. All of this material suggests food, drink, and the loss of clothing related items during the restoration of the cabin.

The artifacts recovered suggest that cabin #1 served as a residence beginning sometime around 1850 and continuing until the 1960s, as has been stated within the historical record. The artifacts recovered from the yard deposits included ironstone, pearlware, whiteware, yellowware, and several types of stonewares. The range of ceramic types recovered from the yard area is similar to that recovered from beneath the cabin, with the primary difference being an increase in creamware and pearlware sherds from the soil deposits associated with the postholes noted in the yard. The ceramic sherds recovered from the yard add to the data supporting the pre-1835 use of this portion of the site. The artifacts recovered from the northern and southern portions of the yard were larger, on average, and had a much higher artifact densities than those recovered from beneath the cabin. Decorated ceramics likely comprise less than 10% of the sample collected, with blue transfer painting and molded decoration being the most numerous decorative techniques found within this small sample. Several fragments of slate writing boards and pencils were recovered from the yard, although, few toys were noted.

IV. The Historical Research:

During the week of August 14th through August 19th two University of Houston Anthropology students, Dee Heacock and Sara Ridge, traveled to the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to obtain and begin an analysis of documents housed there regarding the Magnolia Plantation and its enslaved population. These documents are were among a collection of the Prudhomme Family Papers housed in the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscripts Department (Collection #613). Due to the copy policy at the Wilson Library that does not permit photocopying of documents over 11 x 17, bound documents, documents in plastic covers, or more than 200 copies, permission was obtained to take digital pictures of those documents in the collection that fit the above criteria. Initially, the research criteria called for investigating only those folders stipulated by the Library's finding aid as related to the Magnolia Plantation. However, shortly after beginning this investigation it was determined that other information, related to our research, could be found in other folders within the collection. Due to time constraints it ultimately became necessary to photograph any document that mentioned the Magnolia Plantation and/or its inhabitants. A CD with a copy of all of the photographed documents is included with this report. A "hard copy" of each of these documents has been archived in the Historical Archaeology Lab, Department of Anthropology, at the University of Houston. The documents on the CD were named in accordance with their contents and have been organized on the CD as they were filed at the Wilson Library.

As with the artifacts collected during the 2006 fieldwork, the documents are currently being analyzed at the University of Houston. This analysis is based on a series of criteria intended to focus on the Quarters, its occupants, activities, and events related to them. Among the criteria included are: mention of any of land belonging to Ambrose Lecomte I or II and/or their wives; the names of any individuals owned, purchased, and/or sold by the Lecomte or Hertzog families; and mention of any members of the Lecomte or Hertzog families. The collection consists of personal correspondence, account ledgers for Magnolia, Vienna, and Cape Hope, receipts, land survey information, personal checks from Ambrose Lecomte, plat maps and various other documents that pertain to the Lecomte/Hertzog families as well as a number of the surrounding and/or related families. Currently, the earliest date that can be derived from this set of documents is 1800 and the latest comes from the 1890s. Those early documents that were written in French are in the process of being translated.

To date, one of the more important documents that examined is an account ledger that lists the enslaved people owned by Ambrose Lecomte (Appendix A). This ledger was

compiled beginning in 1845 and was updated through 1852. A number of entries as late as 1860 are also contained within the ledger, and these entries appear to have been written in pencil. Names, ages, estimations of value, location of residence, and limited information on several families were entered for his enslaved. Death dates, when within the period covered by the ledger, were also listed. Children who were born after 1845 were recorded with their mother's name and their dates of birth. An Access database listing each enslaved individual was then created from this information. Within this document, Lecomte listed his enslaved labor force at a total of 234 people, a number that accords well with the Slave Schedule of the 1860 Federal Census.

However, while the 1860 Slave Schedule has been used to demonstrate that Lecomte had approximately 235 slaves living in seventy cabins on the Magnolia Plantation (Hahn and Wells 1991, Miri 1997, Keel 1999, Miller 2004), this ledger shows something very different. That is, the document provides a list of Lecomte's enslaved labor force as he had it divided between his plantations (Magnolia, Shallow Lake, and Vienna), his house in the City of Natchitoches, and smaller properties in and around the parish (Cape Hope, Spanish Lake, and the Lanacoucou vachery in Sabine Parish). During the time period that the Lecomte's had the twenty-four double room brick cabins built in the Magnolia Quarters, they only had a listed total of 112 enslaved individuals residing there. If this interpretation of the ledger proves accurate, and additional research into other data sources is planned, only an average of 2.33 people resided within each room. This figure is significantly below the "norm" for slave quarters on plantations across the South. For example, cabins in the Jordan Quarters community housed an average of 5.0 people in 1860.

Other documents collected and currently being analyzed include a number of receipts and pieces of correspondence that mention Lecomte's properties and the enslaved population residing on them. One such letter is dated August 9, 1873 and represents a receipt for the construction of cisterns somewhere on the Magnolia Plantation. Several pieces of correspondence being studied are letters from several of the overseers on Lecomte's plantations. This material records activities, sick slaves and children born during a given year, as well as information on the status of crops planted and other tasks undertaken. In addition, one 1869 letter from a Mr. Bullitt to Lecomte includes an inquiry concerning Lecomte's plans to build a gin at Magnolia and Bullitt's offer to sell him machinery for this new gin.

The document research is ongoing and will be archived according to the program utilized at Wilson Library. Following their criteria will allow citing of this information in the proper format and better organization of the material. A hardcopy of those documents that were photographed with a digital camera will be placed in a protective plastic sheet and archived by its respective folder.

V. Discussion and Conclusions:

Despite the fact that artifact analyses are ongoing, especially for those made of glass, metal, rubber, and plastic, which are far less complete than is the case for the ceramics, a number of tentative conclusions concerning cabin #1 and its front yard area can be put forward based on the 2006 excavations. The limited analyses that have been conducted to date appear to support the hypothesized dating for the construction, use, and occupation of the cabin derived from the ceramic and historical data. At the moment, this material suggests that the primary activities associated with the cabin throughout its use were residential in nature. While it is still early in our analysis of these artifacts, we recovered no clear evidence that any specialized craft activity was practiced within or in front of the cabin. However, based upon the Jordan and Frogmore Manor Quarters, it is likely that craft specialization may well be defined only after our excavations into the Magnolia Quarters have been completed and detailed artifact analyses, including distributional analyses, have been conducted. The bulk of the evidence recovered during our 2006

investigation of the Magnolia Quarters supports the hypothesis that cabin #1 was constructed during the mid-1800s and was occupied into the early to mid-1960s.

The limited archaeological evidence related to the construction and the sequence of alterations made to the cabin during its use appears to generally fit with some of the previous interpretations (Hahn and Wells 1991; Miri 1997; Keel 1999; Miller 2004). That is, it has been suggested that the cabins were originally constructed as two one-room residences that each housed a single enslaved family. Later, possibly after 1865 cabin #1 was converted to a two-room residence. Ultimately, for cabin #1, a porch and a pier-and-beam, framed room (likely employed as a kitchen) were added to the west side and the eastern side of the north room, respectively (Miri 1997; Keel 1999; Miller 2004). It has been proposed that wooden floors were placed within the cabin at the time of its initial construction. However, the coins recovered during our investigation of the cabin's floor space suggest that one of the final alterations to the cabin was the placement of the wooden floor. Given the observation that sixteen of seventeen coins post-date 1940, and the historically-known reconstruction of several cabins after the 1939 tornado, it can be hypothesized that the wooden floor was placed into cabin #1 as part of that restoration project. The data from cabin #1 also strongly suggests that the original brick cabin had a dirt floor from its date of construction until 1939-40. If this observation is confirmed during the excavation of the two ruins, then the NPS might want to consider the removal of the modern wooden floor in either cabin #1 or #2 in order to create a more accurate interpretation of the cabins during a majority of the time they were occupied.

One interesting question related to the occupation of the cabins and the number of enslaved families residing in them was raised by the historical research conducted this season. While it has been consistently argued that Lecomte had 234 enslaved laborers residing in seventy cabins on Magnolia in 1860 (Hahn and Wells 1991, Miri 1997, Keel 1999, Miller 2004), historical evidence examined this year (see Appendix A and the CD) suggests that only between 112-120 enslaved people lived within the forty-eight one-room cabins. If additional historical evidence continues to support this conclusion, then the Magnolia Quarters had an extremely low number of people residing in each room, less than 2.5 people per room. If true, this raises an important interpretive question: Why did the Lecomtes build so many cabins? The Lecomtes could have employed the additional cabins to house additional enslaved families in the Magnolia Quarters during peak seasons of the agricultural cycle, thus accounting for the large number of cabins constructed. However, the cost of building of brick cabins to house temporary laborers seems excessive, and Walmsley's 1858 plat of the plantation shows a number of "field houses" that might have served as temporary residences. This issue at least raises the possibility that the cabins may have been constructed as or were quickly converted to two-room residences. Additional archaeological investigation planned for the two ruined cabins may provide an answer to this question.

The presence of several postholes and sections of at least one packed earth floor below the cabin and its associated yard deposits supports the hypothesis that evidence related to the use of the property during Gaspard LaCour's ownership was recovered. The ceramic (limited to less than twenty sherds), glass, and the stratigraphic data place these features during the early 1800s, prior to the sale of the property to Ambroise Lecomte. Unfortunately, little can be stated concerning the types of structures and activities that might have been conducted here, as the construction of the brick cabins and their subsequent use has had a major impact on the earlier deposit. Additional investigation of the porch and yard area of cabin #1, planned for the 2007 field season, may provide additional evidence and permit an interpretation of these features.

As has been discussed, at least two specific artifacts suggest that the excavations did provide data related to the spirituality of the cabin's residents. The artifacts are the Medals of the Immaculate Conception, or Miraculous Medals (Figure #17). These medals were recovered from the northern room of the cabin. While two other metal objects were

recovered that may also have been religious medals their surfaces were too heavily corroded to confirm them as additional medals. The history of the Miraculous Medal begins in Paris, France in 1830 when Sister Catherine Laboure, now Saint Catherine, experienced three apparitions of the Virgin Mary. During these apparitions Mary gave Sister Catherine the mission of designing and distributing a medal so that "those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck" (Anonymous 2006). The first medal appeared two years later in 1832 and it rapidly became popular among the poor and oppressed. The name "Miraculous Medal" stems from the belief that "almost immediately the blessings that Mary had promised began to shower down on those who wore the medal. The devotion spread like wildfire. Marvels of grace and health, peace and prosperity following in its name. Before long people were calling it the 'Miraculous Medal'" (Anonymous 2006).

According to the Association of the Miraculous Medal (Anonymous 2006), the front of the medal was designed with the Virgin Mary standing on a globe "as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her" (Anonymous 2006). Mary is posed with her hands outstretched with rays of light extending from her fingers. Written around the figure of the Virgin was the inscription "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee" (Anonymous 2006). The back of the medal has twelve stars referring to the Apostles of Christ, who represent the entire Church. The cross symbolizes Christ and the sacrifice made for humankind, "with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth" (Anonymous 2006). The capital "M" intertwined with the lower bar on the cross stands for Mary and symbolizes her role with Christ and the world. This intertwining also symbolizes Mary's role in the salvation of the faithful and as the Mother of the Church. "The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us" (Anonymous 2006).

As yet we have been unable to locate precise information on the age of either of the medals we recovered. However, one of them appears to have been made of aluminum, or some very light weight metal, and has the inscription written in English. While aluminum has been known since the mid-1820s, the process of extraction was so expensive that it remained something of a precious metal, even more costly than gold, until the mid 1910s. Therefore, given the English inscription and the use of aluminum in its manufacture, it is likely that this medal was not produced prior to the late 1910s. The gold Miraculous Medal, with its inscription written in French, may be the older of the two, though just how much older (or even if it is older) is unclear at the moment. A photograph of a medal engraved by "Vachette" during the 1800s contains a number of similarities with the gold medal, and our research has found to closest to the one we recovered.

However, what may be of most significance concerning the gold Miraculous Medal is that it was modified from its original form. The modifications were made in the area of Mary's head, neck, and the earth she is standing on. As can be observed in Figure #29, the Virgin's face has clearly been changed with the eyes and nose becoming considerably larger and more distinct, while her neck is completely missing when compared to the Vachette engraving or the aluminum medal. Further, while the medal recovered from cabin #1 retains the snakes beneath her feet, it lacks any indication that she once stood on a symbol of the earth. A search of the limited literature on these medals has failed to yield any other medals pictured with this type of face, as all tend to show a rather Anglicized version of Mary's face, in all cases the Virgin is depicted with a neck and is standing on a stylized earth. Tiny scrap marks can be seen on the surface of the medal in the area of the figure's head, further supporting the hypothesis that the medal was altered at some point after being struck. This alteration may signify the wearer's adaptation/appropriation of Catholicism, rather than the straightforward acceptance of the Catholic version of Christianity. Even if the medal had been worn around the neck, such an alteration would likely have gone unnoticed by nearly all "casual" observers. Thus, the alteration may have been "hidden in plain view."



Figure #29: A close up of the gold Miraculous Medal with a copy of Vachette's engraving for comparison. (The copy of Vachette's engraving is adapted from Dirvin 1984)

Three "archaeological contexts" appear to provide additional data on the spiritual lives of the cabin's occupants. These deposits consist of the intentionally buried bottles: one inside the southern room of the cabin beneath the internal doorway; the Hoyt's Nickel Cologne bottle placed under the window/doorway in the east wall of the north room; and the amber glass bottle found outside of the cabin but beneath the southern edge of the porch (see below). The buried bottles are interpreted as having been deposited during hoodoo or conjure rituals aimed at controlling and/or manipulating aspects of the lives of individuals residing within cabin #1. In each case, the bottles formed the primary object recovered, along with a small number of chicken eggshell fragments. Although it is likely that items such as cloth and/or fluids were originally placed along with the bottles, no perishable items, other than the eggshell fragments remained to be collected, (Puckett 1926; Hyatt 1970-78; Leone and Fry 2001).

The two Miraculous Medals, one of which was clearly modified; the locket with its secondarily carved lines; and the three intentionally buried bottles all appear to be material indicators of the spiritual lives of at least some of the residents of cabin #1. Based upon the stratigraphy that remained after the wooden floor of the cabin was removed, it is not yet possible to place these deposits and artifacts into a temporal sequence demonstrating the appropriation, adaptation, and change in the spiritual beliefs of the cabin's occupants. The date of manufacture of the gold Miraculous Medal cannot yet be determined, nor can the date of its modification, other than that it had to have occurred after 1832 when such medals were first produced, although the mid to late-1800s appears likely. The aluminum medal was most likely manufactured after 1915 when aluminum could be extracted in an inexpensive and efficient manner. Two of the three bottles likely date to the first twenty years of the 20th century, while the third (the Hoyt's bottle) was likely produced during the 1880s-1890s. Unfortunately, date of manufacture does not necessarily correspond to the

date when the medals or the bottles were deposited. Based on their condition, it is likely that the bottles were deposited shortly after their original use as containers, but that might not have been the case. Certainly, the medals could have had years of use after their manufacture, and most likely did.

Unfortunately, even the stratigraphy associated with the brass locket cannot be employed to provide evidence to securely date the locket's manufacture, modification, or its placement under the cabin. That is, while the locket was found within the fill of a postmold that had been sealed by the original dirt floor of the cabin, a rodent burrow passed through the floor and into the posthole/mold beneath. The discovery of the locket within the postmold would suggest that the locket entered the archaeological deposit shortly after the post had been removed, likely during the construction of the cabin. However, the close proximity of the rodent burrow makes this conclusion open to interpretation.

Thus, evidence was developed during the 2006 excavations related to the question of the spiritual beliefs of residents of the Magnolia Quarters. However, cabin #1 does not appear to have been the church noted in the historical record of the site, or, at least, it lacks the deposits that ritually sanctified the space of the Jordan and Richmond Hill praise houses/churches. Perhaps the additional excavations planned for the next three field seasons will provide the location of this church, but the 2006 fieldwork did answer at least one important question concerning the integrity of the site. As argued by Keel (1999), the site retains sufficient integrity to permit an examination of the lives of its residents.

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Appendix A:

**AMBROSE LECOMTE'S ACCOUNT LEDGER
1852-1856
(PAGES 37-51)**

Transcribed by:
Dee Heacock

The following pages are the slave listings from pages thirty-seven through fifty-one in Ambrose Lecomte's account journal found in folder 164 Series 3.1.2 of the Prudhomme Collection at UNC Wilson Library. These pages contained the listings for Magnolia Plantation, Shallow Lake Plantation, Vienna Plantation, Cape Hope, Spanish Lake, and the Lancoucou vachery. A vachery or vacherie is a tract of land used specifically for grazing cattle.

Magnolia Plantation: Adult Males

	NAMES	MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
A	Ambroise	Mulatto boy	36	750		
	Adams	Negro boy	28	650		
	Auguste	Negro boy	38	400	1847	
	August	Negro boy	23	750	1847	Drowned
	Azinos	Mulatto boy	27	500		
	Azinor	Negro boy	22	450		
	Albert	Negro boy	29	700		
B	Baptiste	Negro boy	47	900		
	Barthelemy	Mulatto boy	17	250	July 1851	Cholera
	Bill	Negro	25	700	July 30 th 1851	Cholera
C	Charles Natchitoches	Negro boy	27	700	Jan. 19 th 1855	Pleurisy
	Cirique	Mulatto boy	25	500		
	Chouchoute	Mulatto boy	26	550		
	Cupidon	Mulatto boy	36	750		
	Charles (Blacksmith)	Negro boy	23	550		
	Chenite	Negro boy	26	700	August 1850	
G	Georges	Negro boy	30	700		
	Gros Joe	Negro boy	44	900		
	Grand Mulate	Mulatto boy	23	650	1846	
	Grand Louis	Mulatto boy	42	750		
	Grand Francois	Negro boy	62	10.00	1847	
H	Henry	Negro boy	26	750		
	Honore	Mulatto boy	21		June 4 th 1859	Drowned
J	Joseph	Mulatto boy	24	600		
	Joseph Destin	Mulatto boy	52	400		
	Joseph Lavinge	Mulatto boy	34	750	May 1850	
	Jefry	Negro boy	44	700		
	John Smith	Negro boy	45	00	June 20 th 1855	
	John Davis	Negro boy	34	550		
	Joy Gasparite	Negro boy	49	400	Gran 1846	
	Joe Anglais	Negro boy	29	700		
	John Orphan	Negro boy	9	125	Sept 30 th 1849	Drowned
	James	Negro boy	38	00		
	James Fils	Negro boy	12	00		
	Jacques Cyrian	Negro boy	28	10	1846	

L	Louis Petit	Mulatto boy	27	700		
	Louis Ginon (Commander)	Mulatto boy	66	350	January 1851	
M	Moses Carpenter	Mulatto boy	40	800		
N	Ned (Big)	Negro boy	26	700		
	Ned (Little Coon)		18		Sept 29 th 1856	Burnt in the press
P	Prudemes	Negro boy	10	150		
	Paulin	Mulatto boy	23	500		
R	Raphael	Negro boy	10	150		
T	Tirence	Negro boy	25	700		
	Tony	Negro boy	26	600		
	Thomas Carpenter	Negro boy	46	700		Cholera
U	Ursin	Mulatto boy	29	750		Died Too
V	Victorien	Mulatto boy	27	750		
	Valsin	Mulatto boy	30			
W	William	Negro boy	42	700		
	Warren Carpenter	Negro boy	23			Bought in N.O. year 1852 for \$2000

MAGNOLIA PLANTATION: Male Children Born Since 1845

NAMES	MALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS	NOTES
Celestin	Mulatto boy	7	Constance	1845		
Eugene	Mulatto boy	3	Azilie	1849		
Albin	Mulatto boy	3	Kijiah	Dec 10 th 1849		
Narcisse	Negro boy	3	Eloise	Dec 1849		
Edward	Negro boy	1	Lagross	Aug 26 th 1851		
Severin	Negro boy	1	Selephine	Sept 28 th 1851		
Dominique	Negro boy		Kate	July 14 1852	July 1852	
Lucien	Negro boy		Eloise	Aug 18 1852	Oct 1852	
Alexis	Mulatto boy		Lorenza	Sept 9 th 1852		
Emile	Mulatto boy		Milia	Sept 13 th 1852		
Frederick	Negro boy		Constance	Nov 10 1852		
Alexandre	Mulatto boy		Azilie	Nov 17 1852		
Marcel	Negro boy		Roseline	March	June 7 th 1853	
Tisire	Negro boy		Selephine	Sept 1853	(___?___)	
Laurent	Negro boy		Kate	Oct 14 th 1853		
Baptiste	Negro boy		Helene	Dec 1853		
Ursine	Negro boy		Lorenza	July 1854		
X			Sisorsine	?	1855	
X			Kate	Jan 10 th	Jan 13 th 1856	
X			Selephine	Aug 23 rd 1855	Aug 29 th 1855	
Emile	Mulatto boy		Clementia	Jan 31 1856		
Francis	Negro boy		Kate	Feb 6 th 1858		
Dorsina	Negro boy		Bajeks	Aug 25 th 1858		
Janvier	Negro boy		Eloise	Oct 6 th 1858		
Neuville	Mulatto boy		Nelia	Sept 4 th 1854		
Gustave	Negro boy		Kate	Oct 22 nd 1859		
Moses	Negro boy		Nelona	July 12 th 1860		

MAGNOLIA PLANTATION: Female Children

	NAMES	FEMALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
A.	Aimee	Negro girl	47	200		
	Airey	Negro girl	59	10.00	Sept 13 th 1849	
	Azilic	Negro girl	22	50.00		
B.	Betsy	Negro girl	4	--	July 1851	
C.	Caroline	Mulatto girl	35	600		
	Couachine	Negro girl	37	500	March 2 nd 1854	Consumption
	Clarisse	Negro girl	44	500	Jan 11 th 1861	
	Catherine	Negro girl	41	450		
	Clothilde	Mulatto girl	19	350		
	Chaquite	Mulatto girl	22	400		
	Clementine	Mulatto girl	20	0		
	Claria	Mulatto girl	7	150	Sept 21 st 1849	
	Chorichodi	Mulatto girl	5	100	Sept 21 st 1850	
F.	Fini	Negro girl	57			
	Filice	Negro girl	8			
	Francoise	Negro girl	62	10.00		
	Francine	Negro girl	23	550	Nov 20 th 1848	
E.	Eloise	Mulatto girl	29	600		
H.	Helene	Negro girl	26	150		
	Hortense	Negro girl	36	600		
	Hortense (chicken)	Mulatto girl	55	350		
	Hortense	Mulatto girl	7	100		
	Hortense (nurse)	Mulatto girl	62	00	Nov. 7 th 1851	
	Henriette	Mulatto girl	28		1848	___?___ de laire (?) et morte en 1848
	Henriette	Negro girl	21	550		
	Henriette ?	Mulatto girl	33	750		
J.	Janitte	Negro girl	30	500	Jan 1852	D ___ M ___
	Julie	Mulatto	43	750		
	Jeanne	Negro girl	19	450	July 3 rd 1852	Cholera
K.	Kitty or Kate	Negro girl	19	250		
	Kireah	Negro girl	31	700		
L.	Lagrosse	Negro girl	19	550		
	Lorenza	Mulatto	21	450		
	Lolette	Mulatto	24	600	July 29 th 1851	Cholera
M.	Marie (grosse)	Negro girl	42	550	Died in 1858	
	Mayell	Negro girl	34	600	Aug 25 th 1852	
	Marie Jeanne	Negro girl	52	250	March 2 nd 1861	
	Mimi	Negro girl	44	600		
	Marguerite	Negro girl	7	00		
	Marcelite	Negro girl	39	600		
	Milia	Mulatto girl	28	250		
	Mathilde	Mulatto girl	45	450		
	Miliza	Mulatto girl	23	450		
	Marie Quinin	Mulatto girl	47	200		
	Madeline	Mulatto girl	29	600		
	Marinette	Negro girl	47	150	Year 1848	
	Martha	Negro girl	29	450	March 1849	
	Marguerite	Negro girl	6	.0		
O.	Octavie	Negro girl	12	200	July 31 1851	Cholera
P.	Pasite	Negro girl	20	550		
R.	Roseline	Negro girl	21	500		At Shallow Lake

	Rose	Mulatto girl	35	600		
S.	Sucky	Negro girl	45	400	April 29 th 1853	
	Siverine	Negro girl	18	200		Manuel's Wife
	Sarah	Negro girl	40	750		
	Selephine	Negro girl	29	500		
	Sally	Negro girl	60	50.00	Aug 19 th 1850	
V.	Victorine	Mulatto girl	36	00	Die 1854	
	Venue	Negro girl	26	525		
Z.	Zelina	Negro girl	31	600	July 30 th 1851	Cholera

FEMALE CHILDREN BORN SINCE 1845

NAMES	FEMALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS	NOTES
Ambroisine	Negro girl	4	Zelina	Feb 1848		
Suzanne	Negro girl	3	Helene	Nov 10 th 1849		
Legida	Negro girl	2	Constance	Apr 1850	Dec 12 th 1855	Burnt
Amira	Mulatto girl		Henriette	Feb 2 nd 1852		
Clara	Negro girl		Helene	Mar 29 th 1852		
Mathilda	Mulatto girl		Clementia	Dec 21 st 1852		
Amanda	Mulatto girl		Henriette	Apr 10 th 1854		
X			Constance	May 30 th 1854	May 31 st 1854	
Arsine	Negro girl		Helene	1854		
Urene	Negro girl		Azelie	Dec 4 th 1854		
Suzette	Negro girl		Lagrosse	Jan 27 th 1855		
Deneige	Mulatto girl		Eloise	Apr 17 th 1855		
Jolette	Mulatto girl		Emilia	June 15 1855		
Charlotte	Mulatto girl		Meliza	Nov 5 th 1855		
X	Mulatto girl		Clementine	Jan 1856	Jan 1856	
	Griffe		Chaquite	Feb 1857		
Emilie	Mulatto girl		Clementia	July 1 1858		
Georgiana	Mulatto girl		Melia	Apr 17 1857		

1853 SLAVES BOUGHT THIS YEAR

DATE BOUGHT	NAME	SEXES	AGES	COST	WHERE AT	NOTES
February						
19 th	Osborne Gibson	N. Man	22	1225	Magnolia	
19 th	Harris Dickerson	"	20	1225	Magnolia	Died 1854
19 th	Henry Dickerson	" Boy	15	1050	Magnolia	
19 th	Charles Dickerson	"	13	900	Magnolia	
19 th	Ennalls Dickerson	"	10	800	Magnolia	
19 th	Ellick Washington	" Man	18	1250	Magnolia	Died Aug 1854
21 st	Matt Ross	" Man	22	1300	Magnolia	Died May 1854
21 st	Plutarch Barnes	" Man	16	1200		
21 st	Patterson Bell	" Boy	14	1000		
21 st	Clark Oblenis	"	10	800	Magnolia	Died March 1862 (With J. Cojins (?))
March						
11 th	William	N. Man	25	1300	Shallow Lake	(S.J.D. Irnins)
16 th	Daniel (mad. Compire)	" Boy	11	850	Magnolia	
April						
4 th	Angy	N. Woman	36	600	Magnolia	

4 th	Nelson	N. Boy	15	900	Magnolia	Angy's Child
4 th	William	" "	12	800	Magnolia	Angy's child
4 th	Allen	" "	10	700	Magnolia	Angy's child
4 th	Landen	" girl	6	400	Magnolia	Angy's child
4 th	Dare	" boy	4	450	Magnolia	Angy's child
4 th	Green	" "	18 mos	100	Magnolia	Angy's child

1854 Slaves Bought at Gr. Sompayrac's (cost at 1 & 2 Years)

DATE	NAME	SEXES	AGE	COST	WHERE AT	NOTES
February						
17 th	Jack	Negro Man	42	1600	Vienna	Bought at Gr. Sompayrac's Sale 1 & 2 years __?
17 th	Cassey		45	1035	Vienna	Wife of Jack, cook but sickly
17 th	Peyton		42	1500	Vienna	
17 th	Peyton, jr.	Negro boy	7	*	Vienna	Son of Peyton *(Peyton, Jr., Nancy, and Mathilda were purchased for 1110).
17 th	Nancy		6	*	Vienna	Daughter of Peyton, mother dead
17 th	Mathilda		35	*	Vienna	Wife of Peyton (sickly)
17 th	Lemis		11	775	Vienna	Son of Peyton
17 th	Prudemis	Mulatto boy	11	805	At Cape Hope	June 1860 moved to Magnolia

1854 SLAVES BOUGHT THIS YEAR

BOUGHT AT MAS. JULIEN RACHEL'S SALE as 1-2 & 3 YEARS CREDIT FROM 1 MARCH 1855

DATE	NAME	SEXES	AGE	COST	WHERE AT	NOTES
March						
21 st	Prudence	Mulatto woman	~30	1825	House servant	
21 st	Janvier	Mulatto boy	11	1050	House servant	Son of Prudence

1855 SLAVES BOUGHT AT DEBUIST ANTY'S SALE AT 1 & 2 CREDITS

DATE	NAME	SEXES	AGE	COST	WHERE AT	NOTES
June 28 th	Alexander	Mulatto Boy	15	\$830	Cape Hope	__?__ at __?__
1859	Martha		~22	1800		washwoman

1852 SHALLOW LAKE PLANTATION: Males

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
B.	Beliser	Negro boy	14			
D.	Daniel (Blacksmith)	Negro boy	43	800	March 24 th 1853	
	Daniel	Negro boy	32	750	June 17 th 1853	
E.	Elijah	Negro boy	49	600		
	Edward (yeng)	Negro boy		--	Year 1846	
F.	Friday	Negro boy	54	300	Died 1856	At Magnolia
	Francois	Negro boy	15	200		
G.	Gabriel	Negro boy	44	700		
	Green	Negro boy	42	750		
H.	Harry	Negro boy	33	600		
J.	Janvier	Negro boy	57	250	Died 1854	
	Jacob	Negro boy	30	625		

	Jean	Negro boy	21	500		
	Jules	Negro boy	24	550		
	John Baptiste	Negro boy	45	750		
	Jacques (solo)	Negro boy	22	750	March 16 th 1848	
N.	Noel	Negro boy	47	600		
	Neville	Negro boy	45	750	Janvier 5 th 1854	
P.	Pierre or Peter	Mulatto boy	31	600		
S.	Solo	Negro boy	48.150	150		
T.	Toussaint	Negro boy	29	750		
	Tanas Monet	Negro boy	52	650	Dec 11 th 1855	
	Tanas August	Negro boy	62	250	Jan 6 th 1857	At Magnolia

SHALLOW LAKE PLANTATION: Male Children born since 1845

NAMES	OF MALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS	NOTES
1852						
Louis (at A.B. Rachel)	Mulatto Boy	7	Celestine	Aug 25 th 1845		
Denis	Negro boy	4	Celestine	1848		
Pantaleon	Negro boy	1	Celestine	July 1851	July 1853	
Firmin	Negro boy	2	Marine	Apr 1850	Died 1855	
Gustave	Negro boy	1	Adilin	Aug 2 nd 1851		
Silvin (Monette)	Negro boy		_____?	Sept 24 th 1852	May 17 1856 (cocluche)	
1854						
Nequite	Negro boy		Celestine	Mar 16 th 1854		
Paulinaire	Negro boy	1	Marion	July 22 nd 1854		
X				March 29		
X			Adele	April	Dead	
1856						
X			Roseline	June 8 th	Dead	
1857						
Marcel	Negro boy		Lucette	March 24 th		
Noel	Negro boy		Adele	Dec 25 th		
1858 NONE BORN THIS YEAR						
1859						
Gustin			Adeline	January		

1852 SHALLOW LAKE PLANTATION: Female Children born since 1845

	NAMES	OF FEMALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
A.	Adeline	Negro girl	22	450		
	Adele	Negro girl	19	300		
	Adelina	Negro girl	15	200		
	Aurora	Mulatto girl	47	550		
	Angile	Negro girl	13	150		
B.	Basilis	Negro girl	16	200	June 12 th 1859	
C.	Celeste	Negro girl	49	400	Feb 13 th 1851	
	Celestine	Negro girl	28			
	Celine	Negro girl	11	150		
D.	Dolore	Negro girl	26	550	Apr 3 rd 1852	

E.	Edose	Negro girl	28	550		
F.	Fanny	Negro girl	43	600		Now at Magnolia 1855
	Fanchonette	Negro girl	67	150		Donnie (give) a Atala in 1858
J.	Jeanne (Petit)	Negro girl	57	10.00		
L.	Lucette	Negro girl	30	550		
M.	Marine	Negro girl	31	600		
O.	Olice	Negro girl	49	100		
R.	Roseline	Negro girl	29	500		
S.	Severine	Negro girl	18	200		1860 Manuel's wife now at Magnolia
	Theresa	Negro girl	42	-0-		
Z.	Zeline	Negro girl	23	500		

FEMALE CHILDREN BORN SINCE 1845

NAMES	FEMALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS	NOTES
1852						
Feliciane	Negro girl	5	Edose	1847		
Reine	Negro girl	3	Edose	July 10 th 1849	Died 1855	
Celesie	Negro girl	3	Dolore	1849	Died 1855	
Damasine	Negro girl		Lucette	Mar 2 nd 1852		
Louisa	Mulatto girl		Edose	Apr 3 rd 1852		
1854						
Marcelite	Negro girl		Lucette	Mar 2 nd 1854	August 1857	
Souri	Mulatto girl		Adelina	Mar 5 th 1854		
Jeanne	Negro girl		Adeline	Mar 17 th 1854		
1855						
Arthemise	Negro girl		Edose	Mar 4 th		
1856						
Aurore	Negro girl		Adeline	Apr 4 th		
Francine	Negro girl		Edose	May 3 rd		
Pauline	Negro girl		Marine	July 14 th		
1857						
Laide	Negro girl		Edose	Dec 1 st		
1858	No Entries					
1859						
Virginia	Negro girl		Adeline	Jan 20 th		
1860						
Nanette	Negro girl		Marine	Apr 28 th		

SHALLOW LAKE PLANTATION: Slaves on Shallow Lake Plantation Bought at MAD. MANUEL in 1852

NAMES		AGE	NAME OF MOTHER	BORN YEAR	DEATHS	NOTES
Louise	Negro woman	35				
William or Billie	Negro boy	13	Louise	1838	July 27 th 1851	
Jim	Negro boy	12	Louise	June 24 th 1847		
Jean Baptiste	Mulatto	5	Louise	June 24 th 1847		
Paulin	Mulatto	4	Louise	June 24 th 1848		
Louisiana	Mulatto girl	3	Louise	Nov 4 th 1849		
Gervais	Mulatto boy	1	Louise	Apr 27 th 1851	Oct 1852	

Estate	Mulatto girl		Louise	Dec 25 th 1852		
Solitaire	Negro boy		Louise	March 1855		

1852 VIENNA PLANTATION COTE JOYEUSE: Males

	NAMES	MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1851	DEATH	NOTES
B.	Bush	Negro Man	31	450	Died	
D.	Desir	" "	36	900		
E.	Edmond	" "	31	600	Jan 23 rd 1856	
N.	Nelson	" "	45	800		
	Ned	" "	34	900	Apr 1858	
R.	Robert	" "	31	700	Sept 1857	
	Rene	Mulatto Man	24	800		
S.	Scott	Negro Man	46	750		

1854 FEBRUARY 17th Males Bought at Victor Sompayrac's Sale (cost at 1 & 2 years)

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	COST	NOTES
	Jack	Negro Man	42	\$1600	
	Peyton	Negro Man	42	1500	

1852 VIENNA PLANTATION COTE JOYEUSE: Male Children born since 1945

NAMES	COST	OF MALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS
1852						
Joshua	\$200	Negro boy	6	Laura	1846	
Israel	200	" "	5	Idey	1847	
Isaac	200	" "	5	Maria	1847	
Aaron	150	" "	4	Florence	1848	
Anderson	200	" "	4	Vincy	1848	
Desir Jr (sick)	150	" "	3	Laura	1849	
Elias	50	" "	--	Laura	Feb 9 th 1852	

1854 FEBRUARY 17th Male Children Bought at Victor Sompayrac's sale (cost at 1 & 2 years)

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	COST	NOTES
	Lewis	Negro boy	11		\$775	Son of Peyton
	Peyton, Jr.	Negro boy	7		\$500	Son of Peyton
	Tommy	Negro boy	Born 1857	Maria		
	Landy	Negro boy	Born 1854	Florence		
	Samuel	Negro boy	Dec 19 th 1859	Sarah		
	Gabe	Negro boy	1858	Mathilda		

1852 VIENNA PLANTATION COTE JOYEUSE: Females

	NAMES	OF FEMALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1851	DEATH	NOTES

	Charlotte	Negro woman	41	500	Sept 1857	
	Ellen (orphan)	Negro girl	9	300		Now at Magnolia
	Florence	Negro woman	31	600		
	Flora	Negro woman	32	650		
	Idey	Negro woman	31	600	Dec 31 st 1854	Wife of Rene
	Laura	Negro woman	31	600		Wife of Desir
	Maria	Negro woman	31	650		
	Vincy	Negro woman	41	600	dead	

1854 FEBRUARY 17th Females Bought at Victor Sompayrac's sale (cost at 1 & 2 years)

	NAMES	AGE	COST	NOTES
	Cassey	45	\$1035	Wife of Jack, good cook but sickly
	Mathilda	35	\$310	Wife of Peyton, sickly

1852 VIENNA PLANTATION COTE JOYEUSE: Female Children born since 1845

NAMES	COST (est. in 1851)	OF FEMALE CHILDREN	AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN YEAR	DEATHS
1852						
Sarah	\$300	Negro girl	8	Idey	1844	
Celey	150	Negro girl	3	Idey	1849	
Sarah Jane	150	Negro girl	3	Maria	1849	
Rebecca	100	Negro girl		Florence	1852	
Tris	100	Negro girl	2	Laura	1850	

1854 FEBRUARY 17th Female Children Bought at Victor Sompayrac's sale (cost at 1 & 2 years)

	NAMES	AGE	COST	NOTES
	Nancy	6	\$300	Child of Peyton, mother dead

December 26th Born:

NAMES		AGE	MOTHER'S NAME	BORN
Louisa	Negro girl		Idey	Dec 1854
Lafille	Negro girl		Laura	1855
Madeline	Negro girl		Florence	Feb 1856
Rachel	Negro girl		Laura	Jan 1859

1852 LANACOUCOU VACHERY: Males

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
C.	Charles	Negro man	52	250		
E.	Elois	Negro man	34	750	Jan 16 th 185_	
G.	Grand Baptiste	Negro man	67	250		
H.	Honore	Negro man	54	250		

1852 AT SPANISH LAKE: Males

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
B.	Baptiste Cordomior	Negro Man	67	50.00	Died May 18_	

1852 AT CAPE HOPE: Males

	NAMES	OF MALE SLAVES	AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
B.	Bob	Negro Man	35	600		Sold to ? in 1859
J.	John	Negro Boy	11			At Magnolia, son of Laura from Vienna \$350
M.	Manuel (first)	Negro boy	21	400		Now with ___ 1854
P.	Picayune	Negro boy	19	--		At Magnolia
R.	Rene	Mulatto	17	400		At Magnolia
W.	Woolsey	Negro	27	450		At Shallow Lake
1854						
Feb 17 th	Prudemis	Mulatto boy, orphan bought at Victor Sompayrac's Sale (\$885)	11			At Magnolia
1855	Alexander	Mulatto boy, bought at Debuis Anty's Sale (\$830)	15			At Magnolia

1852 HOUSE SERVANTS: Males and Females

	NAMES		AGE	ESTIMATION IN 1845	DEATH	NOTES
	Anis	Negro man	57	250	Apr 31 st 18__	
	Jeanne	Negro woman	62	150		
	Clement	Mulatto man	40	900		
	Frank	Negro man	29	750		
	Celeste	Negro woman	38		June 19 th 1852	
	Clementia	Mulatto woman	18			
	Coralie	Mulatto girl	16			
	Appoline	Mulatto girl	13	150		Donner (give) a Cora
	Dorsine	Mulatto man	52	500	Nov 24 th 1852	
	Suzanne	Mulatto woman	34.			Desiree Lecomte
	Janite	Negro woman	22			Desiree Lecomte
	Fanny	Mulatto woman				Desiree Lecomte
	Achille	Mulatto boy	8			Disabled – at Magnolia
	Buster	Mulatto boy	4			

1854	NAMES	COST	AGE	DEATH	NOTES
	Prudence	Cost: \$1825	30		Bought at ____ sale of Mas. Julien Rachel
	Janvier	Cost: \$1050	11		Son of Prudence